FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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COMMUNIQUE ON MULTINATIONAL CREDIT AGREEMENT

PY311519 Buenos AIRES TELAM in Spanish 0436 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (TELAM) -- The Mexican, Brazilian, Colombian, Venezuelan, and U.S. Governments today agreed to join the Argentine Government in the announcement of a short-term financial packet in the amount of $500 million to support the Argentine economic adjustment efforts. This announcement was made by Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun in the Government House newsmen's room at 0110. He read the official Argentine Government communique on the foreign debt. Here is the text of the communique:

"The Mexican, Brazilian, Colombian, Venezuelan, and U.S. Governments today agreed to join the Argentine Government in the announcement of a short-term financial packet in the amount of $500 million in support of the Argentine economic adjustment efforts.

"Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela will make a short-term contribution totaling $300 million. Mexico and Venezuela will contribute $100 million each; Brazil and Colombia, $50 million. For its part, the Argentine Government will provide $100 million to be included in this packet.

"Furthermore, the United States has promised to provide a bridge-loan (credito puente) of $300 million to the Argentine Government, after an agreement has been reached with the IMF regarding the Argentine economic adjustment program. This financing will replace the loans granted by Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.

"The IMF managing director has sent a report on the progress of the talks among the Argentine Government, the IMF management, and the IMF work group. Argentina confirms its interest in a prompt agreement with the IMF.

"This multilateral financing packet, conceived by the participant countries as a form of hemispheric solidarity, is designed to aid the Argentine Government in its efforts to restore the bases for steady economic growth and to encourage democracy in this important Latin American country."

ALFONSIN SPEAKS ON DEBT, CREDIT AGREEMENT

PY020130 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Address to the nation by President Raul Alfonsin from the Olivos Presidential Residence in Buenos Aires on 2 April -- recorded]

[Text] With solidarity and fraternal gesture, the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil, with the participation of the United States, and the contribution of a group of commercial banks, have given us a hand in overcoming a difficult situation in the foreign sector of our economy.

This Mexican initiative clearly shows the solidarity of which Latin America is capable and is a testimony of the way in which our governments share the conviction that the distressing foreign debt which burdens our economies is a generalized problem and challenge for all the nations of the region. The help that we have received from these fraternal nations is undeniable evidence of the manner in which the entire region has become aware of the indivisible nature of our problems, which must be faced and resolved through mutual cooperation.

This gesture of solidarity, which exacts a commitment from all of us, is, no doubt, a consequence of the reinstatement of democracy in Argentina. This concrete display of solidarity toward the Argentine people has been possible because we have reopened fraternal dialogue with all the countries of Latin America. Argentina now speaks their language, that of respect for life and freedom and for the essential rights of man. If someone could have thought that the prestige stemming from democracy is good only for rhetorical statements, what just happened is undeniable evidence that this is not so. We have obtained the support we received because we managed to pull our country out of isolation. The voice of Argentina has recovered its prestige and is being heard with respectful attention because it is the voice of a legitimate and democratic government.

Today we can say that a concrete expression of the fraternal feelings between our nations has taken place. This is no longer a piece of rhetoric which pleases our historical feelings. We have reached a landmark on the path toward joint solutions. The fraternal gesture of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil has made us feel the warmth and strength of an action full of generosity and understanding.

From now on the jeopardized democracy of any nation of this continent will be able to ask for the solidaristic support of its Latin American peers.

It is true that we have yet to achieve lasting solutions, but there is no doubt that we have steered a different course. From now on we know that we are not alone in the quest for solutions. Let us realize that this implies fundamental changes to the isolation which has made us vulnerable and intrinsically weak.

This action goes beyond our region and decisively influences our relations with the other nations of the world. We are witnessing a change of a highly compromising situation, prevailing in the recent past and even now, into a different one within which our problems and our legitimate desires will be looked upon in a different light by the international community.

Thus, the participation of the United States Government and Congress, and the contribution of the commercial banks is evidence of a positive and realistic attitude.

I want to emphasize that we are now witnessing an exceptional event: the debtor nations have come together to help pay obligations and not to evade payment.

This is proof that the most difficult situations can be dealt with in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation, avoiding confrontation, and this encourages us to face future difficulties.

Everybody knows that this matter that we are referring to will not solve all the problems affecting the external sector of our economy in itself, but it is undoubtedly an essential contribution that will help us in our efforts to deal with the heavy burden that the constitutional government has inherited.

The manner in which we are able to solve the problem involving the payment of interests which had already come due before 31 March is tangible evidence of the policy we have decided to adopt in connection with our foreign debt. Likewise, in the future we will never put either the interests or the dignity of the nation at stake.

We said it before and we are reiterating it now: The renegotiation of the foreign debt will be undertaken as a country that has decided to obtain the most from its human and natural resources, and not as a country that is going backwards.

First, it must be made clear that we are not willing to undertake this negotiation by lowering the living standards of workers or by forcing our productive sectors to remain idle.

Let everybody understand that only within the framework of a country that is moving along the road to its development, within the framework of a Latin American continent that works for its integration, and within the framework of a world where international trade grows, will it be possible to find sound and lasting solutions to the challenge posed by the foreign debt of the region. There are those who seem to believe that the foreign debt can be repaid only by postponing the growth and welfare of the people. We believe exactly the opposite, that only through growth and through the improvement of the general welfare is it possible to repay the foreign debt.

We have always said that the first period of our government would be very difficult. But it was undoubtedly even worse than that, partly because the situation of our country was more difficult than anybody could have expected. This occurred mainly because, and this could be expected, the voices that rose to criticize and pose demands have been stronger than those which rose to denounce the disaster to which we were being led. In addition, there was not much willingness to make the positive contributions called for by the reconstruction of the Republic. However, we must recognize that we have had the support of popular sectors. But there have also been those factions and sectors that expected the failure of the government without realizing that it was the tranquillity of our people that was at stake. Nobody should have any doubt that at this point of our history it is not the fate of the government but that of the nation that is at stake.

Under the present situation, which is a historic event for our country and for the other Latin American countries, it is necessary to make an overall analysis of three matters: What we were in the past, what we have attained, and what challenges lie ahead for us.

First, it is proper to recall what Argentina meant for the world in the past: A politically unstable country in which democracy prevailed sporadically; an economically weak country with an overwhelming foreign debt; a country in which human rights were systematically violated; a country with an erratic and inconsistent foreign policy; a country unsafe for investments but adequate for speculation; a country condemned to underdevelopment due to the difficulties of resolving its domestic problems; a country which exported intelligent people and permanently imported solutions foreign to its national interests. This undoubtedly was Argentina's foreign image when we assumed the responsibility of ruling the country a little more than 3 months ago.

Now let us see what we can show the world today: We can show that democracy has come to stay forever; that respect for human rights is an unbreakable rule; that we can implement a coherent, rational, and predictable foreign policy; that we can assume our international obligations, defending nothing but our interests; and that we can pay our debts without accepting regressive conditions.

In the light of all this, we may ask ourselves: Why does it seem that the Latin American countries believe more in us than some Argentine sectors? Why is it that in many cases sectarian interests continue to prevail over national interests? Why do we continue to talk without listening to one another? Why do those who defend economic liberalism demand everything from the state? Why were the people so patient until 3 months ago and now they do not want to give us time to meet their expectations?

Why do the people not understand that the only way to resolve their personal problems is by resolving the problems of all of us? Why do the people not see that the solidarity requested by the country does not mean collecting money but the people's willingness to do things, their daily work, and their unselfish personal efforts? Why do some people refuse to concede that we must build up our morale?

Therefore, taking into account what we used to be and the will to make changes which we have shown, we must live up to this great challenge.

We must say that there are two possible attitudes in times of a crisis: One is the attitude of those people who seek personal salvation regardless of the fate of others or who even trample on others, and the other is the attitude of seeking common salvation through solidarity. In the light of these two options, history shows that only those nations which pursued greatness rose from destruction. And the greatness of a nation is nothing but its people's capacity to seek objectives together. Everyone does not mean everyone but myself. We, the Argentines, are each and all of us. We are faced with the challenge of believing and creating because only through believing and creating will the Argentine people be able to attain greatness. Thank you very much.

BUDGET COMMITTEE HEAD ON FOREIGN DEBT, IMF TALKS

PY301127 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2334 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (NA) -- Ruben Rabanal, head of the Budget and Financial Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, today said that the Argentine Government is willing to renegotiate the Argentine foreign debt "with a fixed interest rate not higher than 12 percent and a 5-year grace period" for paying interest and principal. Rabanal reported that the letter of intent Argentina will submit to the IMF with the proposals for the repayment of the debt "might be ready over the weekend."

He said that the proposal that Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun put forth at the annual IDB meeting, suggesting that the IDB may act as financial agent for the debt owed by Latin American countries, "is a general idea, a contribution in the search for a method of negotiation."

Rabanal explained that the position of the Argentine Government is "not to pay more than 1 percentage point as risk premium, that is, no more than 12 percent annual interest." This will mean no more than 1 percentage point over the LIBOR [London inter-bank offered rate], which is used in international financial operations.

The lawmaker pointed out that at the Punta del Este meeting, Grinspun mentioned the period to which Argentina will agree for financing its debt. Grinspun had said that it is necessary to adopt a fixed rate, with the mediation of the IDB, for the negotiations with the private banking system "for a 15-year period."

The letter of intent that the Argentine Government will submit to the IMF, as a step prior to signing a memorandum of understanding or a contract for the refinancing of the loans granted to Argentina, will state that Argentina plans to reduce the 1984 fiscal deficit to 8 percent of the GNP. The understanding is a precondition for negotiating with private banks. Rabanal explained that the letter will also mention the estimated trade surplus balance "of $3 to 3.5 billion," with exports "of more than $10 billion" and imports "of approximately $7 billion," which will be necessary for the reactivation of the economy.

The Radical Party deputy remarked that at the Punta del Este meeting, the economy minister made it clear that "the individual debts our countries owe reflect the crisis affecting the Western financial system as a whole." He added that another issue was also clarified, namely, that "the countries that contracted the loans and the international banking system that granted them without analyzing the repayment capacity of recipient countries are equally responsible."

Concerning the virtual walkout of Justicialist lawmakers from the IDB meeting, which they attended at the invitation of the government, Rabanal noted that "before the meeting, they were thoroughly briefed on the strategy that the government would follow and on the contacts it would make with representatives of the private banking system."

"They were even asked to analyze the draft of the minister's speech in case they wanted to make suggestions, a gesture that pleased Deputy Jorge Matzkin," Rabanal added. He said that on that occasion the Justicialist deputy said that, out of respect, "it would be inappropriate" to read and make the observations on the draft speech. He said that "this way, the deputies cannot be said to have attended the meeting as outside observers but as actual overseers; and despite the fact that the Peronist party may want co-government, I believe that this issue falls under the responsibility of the government."

Concerning foreign debt negotiations, Rabanal remarked that "the rescheduling contracts that the government may sign do not need congressional approval. However, Congress has been informed on the negotiations through meetings to which Congress members were invited by the minister."

"The decision to join the Inter-American Investment Corporation, an internal IDB agency, or to amend the letter of admission to the IMF, for example, would need congressional approval," he concluded.

MILITARY BUDGET TO BE CUT BY 40 PERCENT

PY301157 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0050 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (TELAM) -- The Armed Forces general budget will be cut by 40 percent as compared to 1983, according to indicators provided by the Finance Secretariat.

This report was confirmed today by Deputy Juan Carlos Casella (UCR -- Buenos Aires Province), who is the head of the Defense Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, during a meeting with journalists. Casella said that in 1983, military expenditures accounted for one-fifth of the Argentine budget and that the Armed Forces general budget for 1984 will be cut by 40 percent as compared to 1983.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO SPAIN, JAPAN -- The Spanish Government has approved the designation of Hugo Juan Gobbi as Argentine ambassador to Spain. Gobbi is replacing Enrique Ros, who will now be assigned as Argentine ambassador to Japan. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 26 Mar 84 PY]

DEPARTING VENEZUELAN ENVOY -- In the White Hall of the Casa Rosada, President Raul Alfonsin received Venezuelan Ambassador Jorge Dager who came to say goodby upon completion of his diplomatic mission in our country. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 84 PY]

SENATE PRESIDENT SEES DANGER OF CIVIL WAR

PY311428 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Senate President Julio Garret has stated at the United Nations that there is danger of a civil war in Bolivia. A report by our international news agency gives the following report:

United Nations, 30 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivia might be the first South American country to become a new battlefield of the superpowers, because in that country there are accumulating, quote, factors that are potentially highly serious and explosive, unquote, Bolivian Senate President Julio Garret said today.

During his meetings at the United Nations he expressed concern over the political situation in Bolivia. He claimed that it may become the center of unrest in the southern cone and a new stage in the hegemonic confrontation between the superpowers. Garret based his opinion on the fact that the economic crisis and the anarchic development of democracy in Bolivia are pushing us toward an internal confrontation over beliefs and interests which are not ours. He pointed out that it was not a political coincidence that the late guerrilla leader Che Guevara chose Bolivia as the focal point of Latin American subversion. He added that the Bolivian people must not let themselves be pushed in that direction and that it is believed that the time has come to choose between the capitalist and the socialist systems.

He said that the developing countries, such as Bolivia, should take advantage of the competition between the two systems in order to achieve their national liberation, should refuse to become part of any of the systems and make efforts to discover their own values and development projects in order to find their own roads.

He said that Bolivia is suffering from the consequences of its backwardness and of imperialist exploitation, whatever the ideology of the exploiters. He added that the struggle among Bolivians takes place between national revolution and revolutionary nationalism [as heard] and that the struggle is not over changing one dependency for another, but rather aimed at achieving the independence and development of the nation.

He stressed that the weakening of the democratic process in Bolivia and the aggravation of the economic crisis may lead us to an internal confrontation which would create a situation similar to the one which is taking place in Central America and which is causing concern the world over.

Regarding the coup d'etat rumors, Julio Garret stated to EFE that the Armed Forces have said that they will not abandon democracy and that, in fact, they are the last bulwark against foreign interference and an anarcho-syndicalist dictatorship.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID VISITS

Meets With Figueiredo

PY301457 Paris AFP in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Brazilian diplomatic sources have reported Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo have noted the need to make industrialized countries more aware of the burden of problems confronted by debtor countries.

During a meeting held at Planalto Palace in Brasilia, which lasted for more than 1 and 1/2 hours, the two presidents discussed at length the foreign debt issue and they exchanged views on the measures adopted by the two governments to confront the crisis. The sources added that the two heads of state recalled the con lusions arrived at in this regard by the Latin American Economic Conference meeting in Quito last January. The sources added that the two presidents expressed concern over the increase in protectionist measures adopted by developed countries and over the difficulties faced by developing countries in marketing their products in developed countries.

The two presidents held the same views about the situation of Latin America, particularly Central America. President De la Madrid informed his Brazilian counterpart of the efforts made by Contadora group (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama) to find a solution to the Central American crisis. He also conveyed to Figueiredo his concern over a general war in the area, diplomatic sources reported. The two heads of state agreed that the Contadora Group's political and diplomatic actions are the only way to find a peaceful solution to the Central American problems. During the meeting, Miguel de la Madrid expressed satisfaction about Brazil's support to the Contadora Group's actions.

The two presidents, who met in Cancun in April 1983 to sign an economic and commercial work program to reactivate bilateral ties, also discussed energy matters. President Figueiredo pointed out Brazil's efforts to attain oil self-sufficiency, which is foreseen in 1990, while Miguel de la Madrid pointed out the self-sufficiency attained by Mexico, which obtains 75 percent of its income from oil exports.

On 30 March, Miguel de la Madrid will hold a second meeting with Figueiredo. The two presidents could possibly discuss bilateral matters, particularly the reactivation of bilateral trade. Trade between the two countries totalled $1.4 billion in 1981 but it dropped to less than $900 million last year as a result of restrictions imposed on imports because of the crisis. Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda and Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro will also meet.

Miguel de la Madrid, who visited the Federal Supreme Court today, will be received by congressmen tomorrow during a solemn session. The two presidents will sign three documents tomorrow: a joint statement on the visit, an updated economic and commercial work program, and a supplementary document to the industrial rules agreement.

After Brasilia, Miguel de la Madrid will visit Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Addresses Banquet

FL301544 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2319 GMT 29 Mar 84

[By correspondent Sadot Fabila Avila]

[Text] Brasilia, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- There appears to be a plan to settle foreign conflicts in Central America and, if we do not avoid it, the worsening tensions and clashes could lead to a generalized conflict which would imperil security in Latin America and beyond, President Miguel de la Madrid asserted during a banquet held in his honor by his Brazilian counterpart, Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

The Mexican president stated that advocating nonintervention is not the same as ignoring a deplorable reality and violations of international law. He cited cases of direct and indirect meddling, destabilizing actions, and open aggression. He said the strict observance of that principle, nonintervention, is the principal requisite needed to modify the present Central American reality and establish the conditions for the exercise of self-determination.

Insisting that the use and threat of use of force be ended is not the same as ignoring the worrisome frequency with which violence is employed to settle international differences. However, it is the same as noting that localized conflicts involve the terrifying possibility of being extended and generalized, thus increasing the risk of a nuclear war.

Elsewhere in his speech, he stressed that defending sovereignty and territorial integrity is, above all, one way of showing that the actions of the powerful should have, as a barrier, a most scrupulous respect for the geographic territory and national identity of each of the essential elements of states' legal equality. He indicated that in more than one way, the task of Contadora is a Latin American task and, in a broader sense, of the international community.

President Figueiredo reiterated Brazil's support for the Contadora efforts. He stressed that long before the Contadora Group's efforts were undertaken, the Brazilian Government had expressed its conviction that the mediation efforts of the countries in the Central American isthmus would benefit from the diplomatic experience and skills of the Latin American states nearby, Mexico among them.

Protectionism Condemned

PY311929 Paris AFP in Spanish 0326 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 30 Mar (AFP) -- Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo stated in Brasilia tonight that the time has come to tell industrialized countries that the Latin American nations have had enough of them, and that whether they like it or not they will have to listen to Latin America'a claims. The Brazilian head of state made this off-the-cuff statement in Spanish during a dinner hosted for Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid during which Figueiredo delivered a speech.

During the meetings held yesterday and today, Figueiredo and Miguel de la Madrid condemned protectionist measures adopted and the high interest rates demanded by developed countries.

Comments on Trade

FL311627 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0020 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Brasilia, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, who is on a tour of four Latin American nations, today demanded that the industrialized countries' markets be opened [to Latin American countries]. It is impossible to solve the Latin American countries' financial problems if there is no access to the international markets and, principally, to the industrialized nations' markets, De la Madrid stated during a press conference with Brazilian newsmen. That cooperation with developing countries, above all that one coming from those to which we pay a very large amount for servicing the foreign debt, is necessary to increase our intake of foreign currency, principally through exports, the Mexican head of state noted.

Such a premise not only should be submitted to the International Monetary Fund, but to the United Nations, where the Group of 77 is making an effort to develop comprehensive economic negotiations with industrialized countries.

Arrives in Sao Paulo

FL311902 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1745 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid today arrived in the state of Sao Paulo at 1200, as part of his official visit to Brazil, diplomatic sources reported. The Mexican chief of state arrived here from Brasilia. He was received by the governor of the state, Franco Montoro, of the opposition Party of the Brazilian Democratic Movement. After the welcoming ceremony, De la Madrid and Montoro went to the palace of the state government to hold talks on topics not revealed by the sources.

De la Madrid arrived in Brasilia on 28 March and while there met with Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo on two occasions. They discussed the Central American situation and the bilateral relations.

After his meeting with Montoro today, the Mexican president will travel to the State of Rio de Janiero, where he will meet with Governor Leonel Brizola of the opposition Democratic Social Party. Next Monday he will end his visit to Brazil and will depart for Argentina to continue his tour of South America.

Arrives in Rio de Janeiro

PY312050 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 31 Mar (AFP) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid arrived in Rio de Janeiro this afternoon on the third stage of his official visit to Brazil which will end on Monday when he will leave for Buenos Aires. Tonight the Mexican president will give a lecture on Latin American problems at the Candido Mendes faculty and tomorrow he will meet Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola, a democratic socialist.

Joint Communique Issued

PY020055 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Mar 84 p 8

[Report on joint communique issued by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo in Brasilia on 30 March]

[Text] The main issues addressed in the joint Brazilian-Mexican communique released yesterday are the economic relations between developing and developed nations and the situations of conflict throughout the world, particularly in Central America. The communique was issued after the working meetings held by Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo and his Mexican counterpart Miguel de la Madrid. The same issues were also discussed in a communique released to the press.

The two presidents agreed that under current world economic circumstances, there is a pressing need for stopping and reversing protectionist tendencies, "which have made it increasingly difficult for products from developing countries to have access to the markets of industrialized countries." According to the communique, "likewise, the international monetary and financial system should provide financial resources under appropriate terms, particularly for those countries that have already adopted adjustment measures for correcting their internal and external economic imbalances."

Figueiredo and De la Madrid reaffirmed that their two countries will honor their external obligations; they also pointed out that the governments of the main developed countries, the international financial community, and multilateral financial agencies must recognize "the urgent need to agree to more advantageous terms for debtor countries, so that by lightening the burden of the servicing of their foreign debt they might reach appropriate growth rates as soon as possible."

The two presidents also remarked that "the very positive and encouraging results of the Latin American Economic Conference have updated and strengthened the position of the region in connection with the main international economic problems, particularly in the areas of trade and financing." The presidents reiterated their support for the Quito Declaration "the contents of which must serve as guidelines for the position that Latin American countries must adopt at multilateral economic forums." The heads of state also noted that "active efforts must be made to have other developing countries adhere to and broaden the scope of the principles set forth in the Quito Declaration."

The two presidents reasserted their support for the principles set forth in the OAS Charter and noted that it is necessary "to revitalize and strengthen the inter-American system." De la Madrid also voiced confidence that OAS Secretary General-elect Baena Soares will try to attain this objective, in keeping with the decision made by member countries.

Figueiredo and De la Madrid held a "detailed talk" over the Central American situation and its prospects. They pointed out that in recent months "peace has been seriously threatened and the risk of a regional war has increased. Since an eventual conflict would jeopardize international peace and stability, and hemispheric relations would undergo irreparable deterioration, the two presidents underlined the need to support the efforts that the Contadora Group has made to strengthen peace, reduce tensions, and insure the attainment of socioeconomic development for Central American countries." Figueiredo reiterated his government's "resolute" support for and "solidarity" with those efforts.

The Brazilian and Mexican presidents agreed that the Contadora Group attained "unquestionable results in its efforts to prevent the worsening of conflicts and an extended war. The two heads of state also agreed on the need to establish the basis for a political understanding among Central American countries. They recognized that the international community has lent its full support to that Latin American initiative." [quotation marks as published]

The two presidents also agreed that in view of current international conflicts, there is an urgent need for new efforts aimed at reducing tension between the great powers and eliminating the centers of regional conflict. "Such efforts call for the revitalization of cooperative ties on the basis of the recognition that democracy, justice, and socioeconomic progress are inalienable aspirations of all people, that respect for human rights and the exercise of essential individual freedoms are two basic preconditions for international peace, and that the democratization of international relations, with due respect for the independence and sovereignty of nations, is essential for peace, security, and development."

In the area of bilateral relations, the major issue addressed by the two presidents was the possibility of implementing industrial cooperation programs. In this regard, they agreed to implement projects that may, "in a realistic manner, strengthen bilateral economic ties, particularly in those areas that are still heavily dependent on imported inputs, equipment, and technology." Figueiredo and De la Madrid also agreed that scientific and technical cooperation, implemented through training of personnel, exchanging scientific and technical information, and joint research programs, have encouraged Brazilian and Mexican socioeconomic development. The two heads of state pointed out that the upcoming meetings of the culture and education subcommittee, scheduled to take place in December, will provide an opportunity for implementing a broad program of exchange that will reflect the educational policies of the two countries.

Concerning bilateral economic ties, the two presidents "noticed the manner in which the commitments they assumed during their last meeting in 1983 in Cancun were fulfilled," and agreed on the need to undertake concrete actions to facilitate the "attainment of the objectives established in the work program drawn up on that occasion. Pursuant to this objective, they approved a reformulated work program for 1984-85 in the area of economic cooperation." This program is in line with the conclusions at which the joint economic and trade cooperation subcommittee arrived in the last meeting it held in Mexico City in September; it is also in line with the conclusions arrived at by Mexican and Brazilian delegations, "which discussed economic cooperation issues," in the meetings they held in mid-March in Brazil. "The presidents voiced their satisfaction with the results of the bilateral negotiations over restricted scope agreement No 9, dealing with the preferential tariff treatment adopted within the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA) for 1962-80. In this regard, they were pleased to notice that the above instrument will be signed by the representatives of the two countries at the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) headquarters in Montevideo on 31 March 1984."

"They agreed to proceed, in cooperation with Argentina, with the study of the establishment, by the three countries, of a nonreciprocal unilateral preferential tariff system favoring LAIA members and other countries of the region. On stressing that this system will strongly encourage Latin American regional trade, they underlined that it will also reflect the spirit of the agreements of the Latin American Economic Conference."

Finally, President De la Madrid invited President Figueiredo to visit Mexico to continue with their "fluid, frank, and fruitful" personal dialogue. Figueiredo accepted and "expressed his appreciation" for the invitation.

MEXICO'S SEPULVEDA ON CONTADORA, NEWSWEEK REPORT

FL311945 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1754 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- In the countries he has visited to date, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has met a favorable reaction to the Contadora Group's efforts, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda asserted here today. In an interview held at the Palace of Bandeirantes, while honors were being rendered to President Miguel de la Madrid on arrival in this Brazilian state, the foreign secretary said he had observed a favorable reaction to Contadora in Colombia and Brazil. In the joint communique signed in Colombia, as well as in the one signed yesterday in Brasilia, a clear demonstration of support for Contadora in its peace efforts in Central America is strongly noted. In the joint document, President De la Madrid and his Brazilian counterpart, Joao Baptista Figueiredo, refer to Contadora as the only viable and ethical option for solving the conflict, Sepulveda said.

On another subject, Sepulveda termed an invention or, in the worst case, a lack of respect for the Mexican Government a report published by the weekly NEWSWEEK on the possible conditioning of U.S. aid to Mexico. Last Monday, the weekly asserted that U.S President Ronald Reagan will tell the Mexican chief of state that Washington's economic aid to Mexico depends on the support that Mexico's government offers White House policy in Central America. That is what NEWSWEEK says, but it certainly is very suspicious that the article appeared precisely on the day President De la Madrid began his tour of Latin America. I feel that it is an invention or, in the worst case, a lack of respect for the Mexican Government, Sepulveda stated.

FIGUEIREDO REAFFIRMS INDIRECT ELECTION SUPPORT

PY010030 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2330 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Speech to the nation by President Joao Figueiredo on the 20th Anniversary of the 1964 Revolution, from Planalto Palace in Brasilia -- recorded]

[Text] Brazilians: The March 1964 Movement, as stated in its declaration of principles, did not reflect the will and interest of any group, but the will and interest of the nation. Its objective was to provide the new government the means to tackle the economic, financial, political, and moral reconstruction of Brazil. So to be able to meet directly and immediately the problems which affected our internal order and our international image, the movement had to be institutionalized to administer the plans and the powers it had.

Keeping the substance of the postulates of the 1946 Constitution, a new Constitution was prepared and promulgated by Congress on 24 January 1967. During the 17 years it has been in force, the 1967 Constitution, which was the result of the initiative of President Castello Branco, was subjected to successive modifications to accomodate the contingencies of the revolutionary process. These modifications were made through the government's unilateral acts, or through amendments approved by the national Congress. The result was that the Constitution was deprived of the logical unity that is essential to the nation's fundamental political charter. If provisions were introduced for which there were reasons at each historical moment, they are now no longer appropriate to the new social and political circumstances we are experiencing.

The ultimate objective sought by all those who joined that patriotic crusade was the preservation of values that are essential to our way of life. One of those values is living under a democratic regime, and its improvement is, therefore, our permanent concern.

I am fully convinced that the road we have traveled under the sign of democracy, which should be full and effective, is marked by milestones, the importance of which need not be explained. Some of the milestones were the reestablishment of fundamental rights, the rehabilitation of political rights for those who had been deprived of them, and the granting of amnesty, which was necessary to ensure the pacification of the Brazilian family. I realize, as I have said before, that freedom in the past may have been equal, but never greater than the freedom now prevailing in the country.

None of this is the result of my efforts alone. This is the result of the evolution that is inherent in the revolutionary process which brought us together in the pursuit of the ideals that had inspired us. These positive results in the cause of democracy naturally demand further developments that can only be accomplished through a constitutional reform. I will submit a proposed amendment to Congress in the near future, and its two chambers should be able to understand and improve the proposed solution.

I believe that in the present circumstances of the Brazilian society, the most appropriate road to achieve the country's fully democratic institutionalization is indicated by the current Constitution, including its provisions for its own reform and improvement. Following procedures established by the Constitution, the current Congress may have constituent powers reform the Constitution. The government has to decide the form in which the nation's president will be elected. This is not the proper time for direct elections, although the government recognizes that it is advisable to restore direct elections in the future.

My position on the question of indirect elections for choosing my successor is clearly defined in the speech I delivered to the first national convention of the Social Democratic Party held in Brasilia on 30 November 1980. Referring to the 1982 elections then, I said that we were going to win a majority in the municipal assemblies, the mayoralties, the state legislative assemblies, the governorships, the Chamber of Deputies, and the Senate. Consequently, it is only legitimate that the Electoral College elect my successor by a majority vote. Therefore, the Brazilian political class was not unaware of the fact that in the 1982 elections the formation of the Electoral College was at stake in the balloting, the Electoral College that would be empowered to elect the next president of the nation. The dissolution of a college freely elected to an irrenounceable mandate would violate a legitimate political commitment which nobody spoke against before the elections. Now this is unjustifiably being done. This is not the time for questioning the indirect election of the next president, wielding deceptive and opportunist arguments.

The indirect form is a legitimate way of electing the chief of state, one recognized by most of the democratic nations. I will therefore maintain the indirect election of my successor.

The direct election in two stages will be proposed for the future. The constitutional review I will propose does not promote any radical position. It proposes a solution for the succession problem of compromise which is demanded for the nation's tranquillity, and that is responsive to the unpostponable needs of our constitutional evolution. Thank you very much.

PINOCHET REQUESTS UNITY FROM DEFENSE FORCES

PY311505 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Republic has stressed that the objectives of the government, the Armed Forces, and the security forces remain unaltered. He added that all their actions must be aimed, more than ever before, at preserving these objectives without either hesitation or weakness. The president made this and other statements during a luncheon with officers at the Capitan (Navaros) aviation school on the occasion of the Chilean Air Force's anniversary, which was commemorated this month.

In his speech, the president expressed his belief that it is fundamental for institutional life to maintain the firm cohesion of the organizations charged with the country's defense because [words indistinct] is not only decisive for the institutions themselves but also for the future of their beloved fatherland. He urged the participants to remain more united and stronger than ever and to categorically and forcefully reject the (?attempts) made by their internal and foreign enemies to break down their morale and discipline, and the unity between the various institutions.

The head of state added that it is necessary to prevent men and women of good will from being deceived, for which they have the duty to set up an institutional system for Chile which will close the door to Marxism and Leninism and reassert the principle of human freedom wisely established in the 1980 Constitution.

PINOCHET REPORTEDLY FACING CABINET CRISIS

PY011700 Paris AFP in Spanish 1539 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 1 Apr (AFP) -- According to insistent rumors circulating today in Santiago, Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet is facing a threat of a cabinet reshuffle which will be officially announced at the beginning of this week. The rumors emerged after the national day of protest held in Chile on Tuesday, 27 March, called for by the opposition labor unions and political parties which demand an end of the military regime and the reestablishment of democracy.

Semi-official sources have stated that the crisis began 2 days after the demonstrations in the wake of the resignations of Chilean Finance and Economy Ministers Carlos Caceres and Andres Passicot, respectively. Caceres, who has been in charge of renegotiating the Chilean foreign debt since he assumed office in February 1982, must travel to Japan and Canada on 4 April to continue talks with private banks, seeking a $780 million credit. I am not going to respond, was the sole statement made by the minister on being consulted about his resignation.

The rumors indicated that the imminent reshuffle of the ministerial team was due to disagreements within the government because of the protracted, profound economic crisis which has been affecting Chile for 13 years and the lack of a plan for a more rapid recovery.

FRENCH ACCUSED OF AIDING LEFTISTS' ESCAPE

French Ambassador Summoned

PY301342 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has reported that French Ambassador Leon Bouvier has been summoned to the Foreign Ministry. The foreign minister noted that the ministry is studying the background material cited by the French newspaper LE FIGARO on the activities carried out by personnel appointed to the French Embassy in Chile .

According to LE FIGARO, the French Embassy in Santiago issues visas to leaders of the outlawed MIR [Movement of the Rovolutionary Left] so that they may leave the country after carrying out attacks in Chile. Citing documents, LE FIGARO reports that French Embassy personnel in Santiago issue visas under false names to MIR criminals so that they can leave Chile.

Ambassador Bouvier will now have to explain the veracity of the charges made by the influential newspaper LE FIGARO.

Ambassador Refuses Comment

PY302014 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] I have instructions from my government not to make any declarations, French Ambassador Leon Bouvier has said. He reported to the Foreign Ministry at about 1100 [1500 GMT] to see Bilateral Policy Director Hector Fuentes.

Ambassador Bouvier was called in by the Foreign Ministry to request from him explanations about revelations made by the French newspaper LE FIGARO about the alleged cooperation of embassy officials with members of the outlawed Leftist Revolutionary Movement, MIR. An MIR leader might have left the country with visas and false documents provided by the French Embassy.

As he came out of the meeting, Ambassador Bouvier refused to make any declaration despite the insistence of journalists.

Police Confirm Report

PY301830 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1753 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Daniel Ortiz report from mobile unit]

[Text] Police sources reported this afternoon that the second secretary of the French Embassy in Chile helped a terrorist to leave the country. The terrorist was wanted by a court for his participation in the attack on former Supreme Court President Israel Borquez.

The report states that diplomat (Jeanne Limont), second secretary of the French Embassy in charge of consular affairs left Chile on 2 April 1983 for Argentina through the (Pajaritos) border pass in Osorno, along with Chilean citizen (Jose Adan Cortez Pastemich), whose real name is Manuel Leonardo Rivas Aracena. Rivas Aracena, who was part of an MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] combat group, participated in the attack against Israel Borquez. For this reason, acting Judge (Hernando Greis) had issued a warrant for his arrest.

After leaving the terrorist in Buenos Aires [with a visa issued] under a false name, the French diplomat returned to Chile and she landed at Comodoro Merino Benitez Airport on 6 April 1983.

(Bondegras) [French Embassy secretary] made a similar trip to Argentina from 1 to 3 October 1983 along with another terrorist wanted by the courts. The French Embassy had also issued a visa under a false name for him.

Recall of Vice-Consul Demanded

LD311503 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The government of General Pinochet has officially asked France to recall its vice-consul to Santiago, Yvonne Legrand, who is accused of having had contacts with the revolutionary left. Here is Claude Mazot:

French ambassador Bouvier was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and told that the government of General Pinochet has asked for the French vice-consul to Santiago to be recalled immediately. Mrs Legrand is accused by the Chileans of having been a go-between between the embassy and left-wing extremists, and of having had regular and frequent contacts with violent groups such as the MIR, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left. Last week, LE FIGARO newspaper published an article implying that Mrs Legrand had facilitated the departure from Chile of an extremist sought by the police by providing him with false identity papers. On several occasions, officials from Santiago add, we asked for an end to Mrs Legrand's activities without success; she must therefore go. This decision is certainly not going to relax the atmosphere between Paris and Santiago. Relations between the two countries are not good; Mitterrand's socialist government totally disagrees with General Pinochet's choices. It remains to be seen now how France will react after this further escalation.

ADDITIONAL DEATH FROM DAY OF PROTEST REPORTED

PY310001 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A young boy died today from injuries he received during the protests called peaceful by the organizers. He is Jose Aravena Mejias, 16 years of age, whose address is 56th Street, Santa Adriana, in the La Cisterna community of Santiago. According to reports, the boy was participating in the incidents on 27 March evening, on (Chacamina) and Italy Avenues. On being injured, he was taken to the emergency department of the Barros Luco Hospital. He died this morning in the neurosurgery room, despite the efforts of doctors.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RESPONDS TO FRENCH CRITICISM

PY300246 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] The Chilean Government has rebuffed the regimes of other countries which criticized what happened in the latest so-called peaceful protest act, telling them that no amount of international pressure will change its course. This was meant for the French Government, but it was just as valid for others which made negative comments about our country. The communique was read by Ricardo Plaza, a member of the staff of the Foreign Ministry subsecretariat.

[Begin Plaza recording] In view of the declarations made yesterday by the spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry regarding the events which took place in Chile on 27 March, the Chilean Foreign Ministry deplores the rash reaction of the French Government in passing judgment on what happened. None of the declarations made by the spokesman reflect the real facts. The consequences of the so-called peaceful protest, which could be predicted by its promoters, were four dead and shameful outrages perpetrated by paid criminals to cast a bad image of Chile before the international public.

The French spokesman's reference to brutal repression, resorting to well-known communist jargon, is almost ironical when police procedures in Chile are compared with those, which can be seen on television screens, being used in other Western countries to bring strikes and mass demonstrations under control.

If the French Foreign Ministry is that much interested in the well-being of the Chilean people and the reestablishment of democratic mechanisms, why did it not condemn the brutal action of the terrorists and the systematic intimidation to force the stoppage? Or perhaps the French Foreign Ministry does not listen to its representative in Chile. The French Government knows that Chile has a democratic and institutional timetable perfectly laid down. It also knows that the majority of the Chilean people back this timetable. No kind of international pressure will separate the country from this course which has been chosen with the discernment of a century and a half of civic-mindedness. [end recording]

HALF OF NATION BLACKED OUT BY 'LEFTIST' ATTACKS

PY020359 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0323 GMT 2 April 84

[Text] Santiago, 1 Apr (EFE) -- A blackout affected more than 50 percent of the Chilean territory after a still undetermined number of attacks were staged against the electric power network tonight. An anonymous phone call received at the EFE office in Santiago attributed the attacks to the "Manuel Rodriguez Revolutionary Front," a leftist group, although the anonymous voice warned that the group has no links with any of the parties known to be operating in the country.

The National Office of Emergencies reported that the blackouts affected the area between the fourth region, which begins 600 km north of Santiago, and the ninth region, 800 km south of the capital. Seventy five percent of the Chilean population of 11,000,000 lives in the area that was affected by the intermittent blackouts. A bomb destroyed a high tension tower shortly after 2100 local time (0100 GMT) in the vicinity of the city of Melipilla, 55 km south of Santiago. Electric power cables were also cut on the Charrua-Concepcion line and on the Charrua-Cabrero line, in the vicinity of the city of Concepcion, 500 km south of Santiago. Likewise, a local radio station reported that a strong explosion was heard in the vicinity of the Port of Valparaiso, 145 km northeast of Santiago.

Although the electric power service was restored in some areas of Santiago 30 minutes after the blackout began at 2105 (0105 GMT), there were more blackouts later as a result of the power connections with other areas.

CARABINEROS VAN ATTACKED IN SANTIAGO, 5 WOUNDED

PY310240 Paris AFP in Spanish 0226 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 30 Mar (AFP) -- At least five security agents were wounded tonight when a van transporting members of the militarized Carabineros forces was the target of a bomb attact at the Santa Lucia railway crossing. Police sources disclosed that the attack took place at 0200 GMT and that it was perpetrated by a commando that was apparently riding in a vehicle which is being vigorously sought by policemen and security agents in downtown Santiago.

AD Condemns Attack

PY312135 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The AD [Democratic Alliance] has issued a communique condemning the attack perpetrated last night against a bus of Carabineros. The communique says: The AD, true to its position against violence, condemns the terrorist attack perpetrated last night in Santiago which cost the life of a Carabinero and injured many others. This attack represents an escalation of violence which must be vigorously repudiated by the entire citizenry.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON 'TERRORIST OFFENSIVE'

PY312125 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The interior minister today explained that edict number 2 imposing prior censorship on the press has been revoked. He deeply deplored the death of a Carabineros corporal following the terrorist attack perpetrated last night in Santiago, as well as the fact that others were injured. Minister Jarpa told the press this morning that this shows that the country is facing a very well organized terrorist offensive that has already taken its toll of Chileans. This is why it is necessary to have a law to counteract this type of criminal action.

[Begin Jarpa recording] We need to have a law similar to those of the governments of various Western European countries which have been faced with terrorism. On the other hand, it is also necessary that the public, the citizenry, realize that terrorism is a real danger, not just the result of a political situation where the government and the opposition carry on an understandable controversy. [end recording]

The interior minister was then asked about the apprehensions raised by the antiterrorist draft law:

[Begin recording] [Jarpa] Well, one has to choose between having an antiterrorist law and organization or having terrorism. I also believe that one must realize that terrorism is nothing but the armed struggle carried on by the extreme leftist groups, especially the Communist Party. So no distinction can be made between the extreme left and terrorism, because the former spawns the latter. Therefore, it is not enough to just denounce violence and terrorism, because this is just playing into the hands of the extreme left. It must be understood that the extreme left uses terrorism, as a method of struggle. If there were no support from extremist political organizations with their international political, extremist connections, individual terrorists would have no possibility in carrying on concerted actions with the resources, weapons, and explosives as they do now.

[Unidentified reporter] We have heard that edict number 2 restricting the press was or will be revoked.

[Jarpa] It is revoked.

[Reporter] Why?

[Jarpa] Because it was not necessary, considering that during the days it was in force there was no major problem with the press or the communication media. [end recording]

SOCIALIST ALMEYDA 'TO COORDINATE' TERRORISM

PY312130 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Clodomiro Almeyda, leader of the banned Socialist Party, has traveled from Moscow to Madrid where he will coordinate actions against the Pinochet government. The former foreign minister under the Allende government hopes to recruit social democrats and radical sectors into an alliance with MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] Marxists and terrorists to launch violent actions against the Pinochet government.

Almeyda represents the pro-Soviet faction of the socialists and he lives most of the year in East Berlin or Moscow.

PCC DENOUNCES U.S. DIPLOMAT'S 'MEDDLING'

PA311800 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Mar 84 p 6-A

[Text] The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Colombia [PCC] has again addressed President Belisario Betancur, the government, and foreign affairs ministers to protest what it considered meddling by U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs in the country's domestic affairs.

Tambs accused the communists of being implicated in the trafficking of drugs to the United States.

The PCC also criticized the declaration of a state of siege in four departments and the establishing of the notorious value added tax, which it believes will increase the cost of living even more.

FARC-PEACE COMMISSION AGREEMENT SENT TO BETANCUF

PA291708 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Netowrk in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota -- The National Peace Commission and the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, Colombia's main guerrilla group, have signed a historic agreement to end their armed struggle.

The agreement has been submitted for the approval of President Belisario Betancur, according to the official communique which was released over national radio and television. The agreement -- the terms of which have not yet been officially reported -- was concluded after 18 months of negotiations between the peace commission and FARC, which is the oldest and largest guerrilla group and operates on 25 rural fronts.

The text of the official communique released by the Presidency of the Republic states:

The Press and Information Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic reports that following several weeks of preparation, six members of the National Peace Commission traveled to La Uribe, Meta Department, for a meeting with leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and have returned to Bogota this afternoon.

Representing the National Peace Commission were: John Agudelo Rios, president of the Peace Commission; Cesar Gomez Estrada and Samuel Hoyos Arango, former justice ministers; Rafael Rivas Posada, former education minister; Margarita Vidal; and Alberto Rojas Puyo. Representing FARC were: Manuel Marulanda Velez, Jacobo Arenas, Jaime Guaraca, Alfonso Cano, and Raul Reyes.

The Peace Commission representatives briefed President Betancur and the government and defense ministers on the satisfactory results of the meeting, in a session that began at 1900 this evening. The conclusions of the meeting between the peace commission and the guerrilla representatives are contained in a document that was signed by all the participants, and which has been submitted to President Betancur for approval.

The government immediately began to review the document and will reveal its decision promptly, within a framework for consolidating peace throughout Colombia, to allow the urgent tasks that the political, economic, and social development of the country demand.

Further Dialogue Sought

PA012230 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpts] According to Peace Commissioner Alberto Rojas Puyo, the prospects for peace in the country are good.

[Begin Rojas recording] There is a great hope among the Colombians because of the agreement which we recently signed in the mountains, in the area of La Uribe, Meta Department, with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] general staff. Tonight the president of the Republic will announce the terms of the agreement. He will comment on the subject to the people.

We met with the president upon our return from the mountains. We spoke with him for several hours and we feel that the president was very pleased with the results achieved with this long dialogue. [end recording]

Rojas Puyo added that contacts with other armed groups are being made in the hope of reaching an agreement for the pacification of the country.

Betancur Confirms Cease-Fire

PA020127 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0110 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur tonight confirmed that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) have ordered a cease-fire in the jungles and mountains of Colombia.

Text of Agreement

PA020458 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0134 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text of agreement signed by Colombian Peace Commission and FARC-EP leaders on 28 March at La Uribe, Meta Department; read by President Belisario Betancur at the Presidential Palace in Bogota -- live]

[Text] In order to strengthen national peace, which is an indispensable condition for the prosperity of the Colombian people in general, and in order to achieve social and economic development based on equality and justice, the Peace Commission and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombian-People's Army (FARC-EP) agree on the following:

1. The FARC-EP will order all its fronts in the country to cease fire and military operations as of 28 May 1984 at 0000. This deadline may be postponed up to two months, if necessary. This order will be in force indefinitely if the President of the Republic, Belisario Betancur, reciprocates this effective gesture of peace by issuing a similar order to all the civilian and military authorities under his command.

2. The FARC-EP will condemn and forbid kidnapping, blackmail, and terrorism in all forms, and will contribute to stopping these practices, as these are attacks against human dignity and freedom.

3. The President of the Republic's order will apply only to groups and individuals who obey and respect these points, and do not violate the penal code.

4. A broad-based and representative national commission of the forces involved in the conflict will be in charge of ensuring the fulfillment of all the dispositions contained in this agreement in order to consolidate the peace effort. This commission, to be appointed by the President of the Republic, will create sub-committees in Florencia, in Caqueta Department; Vista Hermosa, in Meta Department; in Barrancabermeja, in Santander Department; Sarabena, in Arauca Department; Santa Marta, in Magdalena Department; Medellin, in Antioquia Department; Nelva, in Huila Department; Orito, in Putumayo Department; and Cali, in Valle Department; and may seek advice from persons outside the commission to jointly study areas where their services might be needed, such as complaints or accusations of actions that hinder national efforts for peace and security. The commission will exist for as long as necessary, and will be empowered to draft its own regulations.

5. The National Verification Commission will be based in Bogota and will periodically hold meetings with full guarantees of access and free transit to any of the following places to be chosen by the president of the Republic:

a. San Juan de Arama, Granada, and Vista Hermosa in Meta;
b. San Vicente del Caguan, in Caqueta;
c. Colombia, in Huila;
d. Dolores, and Prado in Tolima; and
e. La Uribe, in Meta.

The government will furnish the commission with all the communications equipment needed to carry out its functions properly, and will provide the necessary credentials for its members to guarantee their free transit and security.

6. When the National Verification Commission determines that armed clashes have ended, a one-year waiting or trial period will be observed for the members of the group until now called FARC-EP to organize themselves politically, economically, and socially according to their own free will. The government -- according to the Constitution and laws -- will grant them the appropriate incentives and guarantees. During this period, the government will adopt the necessary measures to restore civil neutrality in areas of conflict.

7. The FARC-EP members will be able to claim the benefits of Law No 35, issued in 1982, and its amendments, whenever they comply with the conditions stated in these documents. Regarding the national rehabilitation plan, the government will give preference to the Colombians who have directly and indirectly suffered the onslaught of violence; the government will also encourage the creation of the necessary juridical means to restore rights which were unjustly violated as a result of the disrupted public order and social insecurity.

8. The Peace Commission certifies that the national government is willing to:

a. Promote the modernization of political organizations with the intention of improving the nation's democratic life; to insist that the appropriate chambers speedily handle the bills on political amendments, guarantees to the opposition, people's elections of mayors, electoral amendments, the political organizations' adequate access to the news media, political control of state activities, and efficient administration of justice; to encourage the process for improving public administration and new initiatives to strengthen the state's constitutional statutes; and to seek the constant improvement of public morale.

b. Strongly pursue the application of an agrarian reform policy in acknowledgement of the fact that the problems of the land are part of our current social conflicts.

The government agencies should guide their actions to permanently enlarge the services to the peasants, thus improving their living conditions, and the normal production of food and raw materials for the industry. All this is stated in the juridical law which is included in Article No 32 of the National Constitution regarding the state's handling of our national economy.

C) Advocate and develop community, peasant, and Indian organizations, and the cooperative and union organizations which represent urban and rural workers, as well as their political organizations.

D) Carry out constant efforts to increase all the educational, health, housing, and employment levels.

E) Maintain its irrevocable resolve to protect the citizens' rights as stated in the Constitution and laws, and to maintain and restore public order only through the appropriate state organizations, since the citizens' peace is guaranteed by these forces' professionalism and permanent improvement.

F) Promote, once peace has been restored, and as happened on other occasions, initiatives to strengthen the conditions that guarantee a fraternal democracy, which requires that we forgive and forget, and to improve all Colombian people's economic, political, and social conditions.

9. The Peace Commission considers that these points represent a noticeable improvement of the objective conditions that are necessary to carry out political and electoral activities, and reiterates its invitation to the sectors which are engaged in actions that disrupt public order, so that they return to normal life and use their talents and prestige to win the people's opinion through peaceful and democratic means.

10. This agreement will be valid for any other group up in arms that states its decision to accept the agreement, if the group previously states this willingness to the government through the Peace Commission. In order to facilitate the adherence to this agreement by groups that wish to do so, a meeting will be held with all of them at a mutually agreeable place and time.

11. In order to be valid, this agreement requires the signature of the President.

Signed at La Uribe, Mesetas Municipality, Meta Department, 28 March 1984.

For the Peace Commission: John Agudelo Rios, president; Rafael Rivas Posada; Samuel Hoyos Arango; Cesar Gomez Estrada; Alberto Rojas Puyo; and Margarita Vidal de Puyo.

For the FARC-EP military staff: Manuel Marulanda Velez, Jacobo Arenas, Jaime Guaracas, Raul Reyes, and Alfonso Cano.

ARMY-GUERRILLA CLASHES RESULT IN 28 DEAD

PA280304 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Mar 84 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Excerpts] Subversive violence that has raged for 3 days in various parts of the country, especially in Caqueta, has resulted in 28 deaths, including 9 soldiers and 11 guerrillas.

According to an Army Command report givento EL TIEMPO, 11 rebels died in clashes between the M-19 [19 April Movement] and soldiers in the regions of Resinas, Santa Helena, and Gabinetes.

The soldiers fighting in the Santa Helena Region, Caqueta -- where an M-19 command post has been detected -- are being supported by seven Colombian Air Force helicopters.

There was a rumor yesterday that a helicopter had been shot down, but a military source told EL TIEMPO that the helicopter had been involved in a troop-landing operation in a war zone, explaining the lack of communications with it for several hours.

Guerrilla activities have increased in the areas of violence. In Toribio, Cauca, six members of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] murdered Diego Jimenez, 68, and Serafin Marin, 78.

As a result of a FARC attack this past Sunday in Jambalo, Cauca, two unidentified peasants died. On that same day, Heriberto Tagua and Carlos Osorio, also peasants, were murdered in Santa Rosa, Cauca, by the same subversive group.

A bloody incursion carried out on Saturday in Currulao, Antioquia, by the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] resulted in the deaths of Ruperto Lora Hernandez, Jose Torres Echavarria, and Luis Hernan Sanchez Toro, all farmers.

The same guerrilla group attacked a police station in Sahagun, Cordoba, and killed agents Julio Yate Leon and Manuel Bermejo Beleng. William Hernandez and Evarista Vergara Hoyos, both civilians, were wounded.

FARC GROUP REPORTEDLY LANDS IN MAGDALENA AREA

PA300450 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Santa Marta -- Soldiers stationed in Santa Marta, the capital of Magdalena Department, were mobilized today to the area near the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta to search for a large column of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] which, according to reports, arrived aboard a DC-6 plane which landed on a clandestine airstrip.

Military spokesman told "Super News" that the residents of the village of Monterubio in Magdalena Department reported that a DC-6 plane landed this morning on a clandestine airstrip and that about 50 men wearing military uniforms and carrying long-range weapons left the plane and entered the mountainous region. After receiving the report, a large contingent of soldiers left for the region.

EPL GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY KILL POLICEMAN

PA300447 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Cali -- A national policeman assigned to the metropolitan unit was killed today by five shots fired by an alleged commando of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL]. The Valle del Cauca police headquarters confirmed that 34-year-old policeman Miguel Angel Castaneda Morales was walking to work when he was intercepted near his house and shot to death by three men and a woman who left propaganda of that subversive organization. The policeman was going to his post at the Bank of Colombia when he was shot. Police secret units are now searching for the alleged guerrillas.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OCCUPY RADIO STATION

PA301910 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Students of the National University of Colombia in Bogota, Colombia, have occupied Radio Cadena Nacional, RCN, where they are holding hostage writer and journalist Juan Gossans, director of RCN's news services; three editors; and two RCN executives. Here is a more detailed report from RCN in Colombia. Go ahead.

[Begin relay] This is a report by Carlos Uribe of RCN-84 in Bogota, Colombia, for Radio Nacional of Panama:

A group of students from the National University of Colombia, the country's principal university, seized the studios and editing offices of RCN's "Radio Events" newscast at 0615 today. This group of students -- some 15 young men and women -- is demanding that the government release a group of fellow students arrested during incidents in the last few hours.

The most serious incident was the occupation of a church in northern Bogota by a group of students to demand a solution to their academic and administrative problems.

Early today, special police forces entered the church by tearing down the door, hurled tear gas cannisters, and arrested all the students who were inside the church. In view of this situation, a group of National University students seized, as we said, the RCN premises. They are still there now, at noon.

The students have held talks with various government sectors through General Alvaro Valencia Tovar, a retired Colombian Army officer who is connected to RNC's news staff. The group of students here is now deliberating to decide if they will withdraw from this station or continue the occupation. Now, let us allow one of the students to tell listeners in Panama what their demands and requests are:

[Unidentified speaker] Companeros, this is a student from the National University of Colombia. At this moment, we are engaged in a peaceful seizure of RCN in Colombia. Our main demand is that the Colombian Government immediately release over 100 of our fellow students who were arrested in the last few days.

As the journalist has just said, the most serious action has been the vile and savage attack with bullets and tear gas on our fellow students, who were inside a Catholic church in northern Bogota. These companeros were inside the church, peacefully demanding the immediate release of other fellow students who had been arrested several days before.

We report to the Panamanian people that we, as Colombians, are asking that our president and the central Colombian Government, rather than seeking peace in Central America, seek peace in their own country. We are experiencing a real social crisis which is reflected in all areas of the National University.

It is clear, therefore, that we will stay inside RCN until our companeros are released. [end unidentified speaker]

You have just listened to one of the students taking part in this peaceful occupation. This has been an up to the minute report on the situation here at RCN-84 for Panama's Radio Nacional. [end relay]

SHINING PATH LEADER IMPLICATED IN PRISON RIOT

PY302022 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Interior Minister Luis Percovich has revealed that Shining Path ideologist Antonio Diaz Martinez tried to flee during the bloody events which took place at El Sexto prison.

Diaz Martinez was listed as one of the hostages taken by the riotous inmates but, according to Percovich, he was actually the one who planned the riot.

Here are some excerpts from the minister's report:

[Begin Percovich recording] The situation of the ideologist of the Peruvian Communist Party Shining Path, Emilio Antonio Diaz Martinez, alias Alonso, who was taken as a hostage, is this:

Upon learning that Shining Path ideologist Emilio Antonio Diaz Martinez, was among the (?13) state penitentiary inmates taken hostage by DIRCOTE [Directorio Contra El Terrorismo] personnel, split into three groups, were deployed near the state penitentiary in order to identify and capture any subversives who attempted to divert the attention of the forces of order to facilitate the escape of the inmates. This way, while the hostages were being rescued and the riotous inmates were being captured by the Republican Guard, PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] Sergeant 2nd class Javier Nunez Montoya, a member of one of the DIRCOTE groups, spotted and identified Emilio Antonio Diaz Martinez, who, taking advantage of the situation, was trying to flee. Nunez Montoya arrested Diaz Martinez who, by order of the trial judge on duty, was taken, along with other inmates, to the courthouse jail by Republican Guard personnel. Diaz Martinez was placed under the responsibility of the courthouse jail personnel on duty.

The possibility has not been ruled out that the one who planned this riot is the ideologist of the Peruvian Communist Party Shining Path, Emilio Antonio Diaz Martinez, as there is confidential information on hand that he was planning to escape along with other inmates whom he had managed to persuade. This hypothesis gains strength because of the fact that bombs were used, bombs that were skillfully handled, and because he was chosen as a hostage. He was unharmed and suffered no physical abuse from the inmates, unlike the other hostages who were either slain or injured. [end recording]

The death toll at the bloody El Sexto riot has now reached 22, after Felix Vargas Rodriguez and Carlos Jordan Silva died from bullet wounds.

Morgue director Roberto Feliciani gave this report and said that so far 15 bodies have been turned over to their relatives.

APRA'S ALAN GARCIA ON FOREIGN DEBT REPAYMENT

PY301508 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Secretary General Alan Garcia has spoken on the need to change the terms of the agreements with the IMF.

Garcia today left for Venezuela, Mexico, and the Philippines.

[Begin Garcia recording] We, as an isolated nation, cannot overreach in our claims to our creditors and the international banks. We need a consensus among the Latin American debtor countries in order to raise certain problems.

We cannot neglect development in order to settle the debt. This means: 1) We cannot pay more than 20 percent of our exports' value. 2) All [debtor] countries must set a goal and a new payment schedule. 3) We must bargain with the creditor countries, where the commercial banks are located, for a reduction in interest rates. There are people who think that this is impossible. We have a handicap, a strong argument. If Latin America, which was forced to pay too much over the past few years, is ready to default as a bloc it will place the international economic system in a very serious bind. Therefore, we feel certain that the leading countries, which must guarantee that this debt will somehow be settled over a longer time, will agree with rescheduling the debt with a 15-year deadline, as proposed by the Latin American Economic System, for example, and reducing interest rates. [end recording]

LIMA MAYOR SEEN AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY301640 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes Lingan will be nominated by mid-April as the United Left presidential candidate for the 1985 general elections, Senator Jorge del Prado has said.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] We are now in the surgery department of Loayza hospital, where we can see Senator Del Prado, leader of the Peruvian Communist Party, who is in a satisfactory condition. He has virtually recovered from the injuries he suffered during the 22 March work stoppage. Senator, when will you be discharged from the hospital?

[Del Prado] Supposedly on Sunday. I am still staying in order to prevent complications.

[Reporter] In what activities are you now engaged?

[Del Prado] Well, firstly I am now concentrating on recounting the facts in order to memorize them so as to substantiate the report that I (?will make) to the Senate. I am also preparing a report for a plenum of our Central Committee which I was to deliver before this happened to me, and I do not want to waste time. This report concerns the present situation and its projections, among them our party's stand regarding the electoral campaign. As far as we are concerned, our presidential candidate [for the 1985 elections] is still Dr Alfonso Barrantes Lingan. [end recording]

CIVIL GUARD DIRECTOR: 328 POLICEMAN DISCHARGED

PY301404 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] A total of 328 policemen, who are involved in several crimes, will be discharged over the next few days, thus, joining the 1,000 policemen that were discharged sometime ago, the Civil Guard director, General Juan Balaguer Morales, reported yesterday.

The policemen, who are members of the Peruvian Investigative Police, the Civil Guard, and the Republican Guard, are involved in drug trafficking, murders, holdups, kidnappings, and other crimes.

Out of the 328 policemen, 28 are officers, and the rest are non-commissioned officers. Balaguer said that over the past 15 months some 1,000 policemen from other agencies have also been discharged over similar charges. Over the past few weeks, policemen were involved in a number of crimes, especially kidnappings, some of which have ended tragically.

In statements to the press at Jorge Chavez Airport, shortly before leaving for Tacna, Balaguer did not rule out the possibility that the guns used by the offending policemen in the interior of the country are the same as those used by the kidnappers in Lima. Regarding the police uniforms often worn by robbers, Balaguer explained that those uniforms are bought at auction sales. On the other hand, concerning the criticism leveled against the police due to its strong repression of United Left congressmen and journalists during the 22 March work stoppage, Balaguer said that he could not expand any further on the statements by Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca.

Balaguer said that I agree with the statements of the interior minister.

TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY MASSACRE 18 IN AYACUCHO

PA301740 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Ayacucho, Peru, March 30 (AFP) -- Eighteen corpses of female students, teachers, and peasants, all tortured before being killed, have been discovered in Ayacucho, southeast of Lima, sources said here today.

The sources, people who had been close to the victims, said the massacre, discovered yesterday, was the work of Maoist guerrillas of the Path of Light organisation.

One of the victims, a lorry driver, had been stabbed and had his throat slit by the guerrillas, who wore face masks, the sources said.

Twelve corpses were found inside the town of Ayacucho and the rest by a road linking Ayacucho with Hunata.

SUBVERSIVES WOUND POLICEMAN, ATTACK FACTORIES

PY301920 Paris AFP in Spanish 1727 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 30 Mar (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that a policeman was seriously wounded today when he was attacked in an industrial zone on the outskirts of Lima by a group of subversives that tried to steal his weapon. The group also apparently attacked some factories.

The group, which included four men and a woman, was arrested by the police after a long shoot-out.

BRIEFS

GAS, OIL DEPOSIT DISCOVERED -- An important deposit of gas and petroleum has been found in the northern area of Cusco Department, near the Camisea River. The Shell Oil Company is now conducting production tests in the San Martin well, with the following results: At a depth of 2,200 meters, 18 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, and 560 barrels of liquefied petroleum per day. [Summary] [Lima Television Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Mar 84 PY]

'PEACEFUL' PROTEST REPORTED IN CAPITAL, INTERIOR

PY020342 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0251 GMT 1 Apr 84

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 1 Apr (EFE) -- With "concerts of pots and pans," blackouts, and demonstrations in strategic parts of cities, Uruguayans demonstrated peacefully tonight demanding "amnesty," and "free elections without proscriptions." The protest action, which had been sponsored by political parties and union organizations, developed without incident.

For some days now, and for the first time, the people have been summoned to join the protest through the press. For its part, the government did not react to the political challenge.

The heavy rain that fell over Montevideo prevented some people from joining the demonstrations, held in 13 neighborhoods of the capital, where more than 50 percent of the Uruguayan population lives.

A proclamation was read and circulated during the demonstrations. The proclamation is signed by the political parties, including the proscribed left, union and student organizations, and the "Peace and Justice" movement led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, which has been outlawed in Uruguay.

Demonstrations were also held in rural cities simultaneously with those in Montevideo; the same proclamation was also read.

Leftist groups were actively engaged in the protest; banners of the Broad Front, a proscribed coalition, were seen next to those of other parties. Unions had a more direct participation in the suburban area of Montevideo. Their main demands were "decent salaries" and "full union freedom." In the elegant neighborhoods of Pocitos and Carrasco, motorcades could be observed during the protest.

The repressive forces did not go out to the streets and no police reinforcement was seen in Montevideo either. No arrests were reported, although it is not ruled out that the intelligence services may have entered into action, as they usually do to identify activists.

Today's protest is the first one in 1984, after the demonstrations held on 31 December 1983.

During Carnival, incidents were reported during the classical parade of typical musical groups, after the suppression of a spontaneous protest demonstration. Most of the 50 persons who were reported wounded were, according to government sources, policemen who were on duty during the parade.

BLANCO PARTY WITHDRAWS FROM TALKS WITH MILITARY

PY292044 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0130 GMT 9 Mar 84

[By Rubek Orlando]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 28 Mar (TELAM) -- The National (Blanco) Party's executive board has decided to withdraw from the dialogue with the Uruguayan Armed Forces. According to Enrique Tarigo, leader of the Freedom and Change Battlist Colorado group, the party's decision "is reportedly promoting a confrontation which could have tragic consequences for the country."

The national party's drastic decision is based on the lack of alternatives to obtain the political rehabilitation of Blanco leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, who has been banned by the government and is living in exile. Ferreira Aldunate is also wanted by a military court for alleged crimes against the state's security.

COLORADO PARTY LEADER ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY312132 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The secretary general of the Colorado Party has said that closing political openings accomplishes nothing. Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti stated that it is impossible to carry out a revolution in Uruguay and that, therefore, it is necessary to seek other political methods. Political work consists of developing principles in the framework of the real situation, Sanguinetti added. He stated that the modification of the Political Parties Law would be another mistake on the part of the government. He also said that it would be suitable for the interparty group to renew its sessions, because right now unity is of the first importance.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Dr Sanguinetti, what is the importance of the National Executive Committee meeting next Monday?

[Sanguinetti] We will study the situation on Monday and we will give our opinion regarding the situation. This is undoubtedly a very difficult time for the country, a very confusing time, during which the events unfortunately do not show the parties in the light of unity which we desire and for which we have always fought and tried to serve with wisdom and moderation, even at times of disagreement.

[Reporter] Dr Sanguinetti, will the Colorado Party attempt a rapprochement with the Armed Forces, although the informal talks have been temporarily suspended?

[Sanguinetti] It cannot be said that they have been suspended, because that has not occurred. We have had only two meetings with the Armed Forces, on 14 February and last Wednesday. There have not been any other meetings, so there cannot be any talk of an interruption of a process or of its continuation. We are in an intermediate stage, a time of crisis in party relations. We will have to overcome the crisis. I think that is the only sensible and reasonable thing to do. [end recording]

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ORDERS ARMY, NAVY POSTINGS

PY301630 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 17 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] The executive branch has ordered new postings in the Armed Forces.

Colonel Emilio J. Sequeira has been named deputy commander of the 1st Army Division, and Colonel Juan A. Tucci (former director of the DINARP [National Directorate of Public Relations]) has been named chief of staff of the 2d Army Division. Colonel Hamilton Vilizzio has been named artillery commander in the 1st Division. Navy Captain Felix Ochoa will preside over the National Information Science Commission (CONADI). He will also retain his current post.

PPS, PSUM, PST REJECT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

PA011609 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 3

[By Heliodoro Escobedo Escobedo]

[Text] The present U.S. policy is cynical and violates every international norm and principle. It must be vigorously rejected by the Mexican people. "President Miguel de la Madrid's foreign policy has our full support and solidarity." This was affirmed by Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, leader of the PPS [Popular Socialist Party]; by Jaime Trejo, of the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico]; and by the official spokesman for the PST [Socialist Workers Party].

The U.S. Government's attitude of trying to pressure the Mexican Government to change its foreign policy toward Central America violates every international principle and must be vigorously rejected by all the Mexican people, said the three political parties, which support the government's foreign policy. Jaime Trejo, of the PSUM, said that in response Mexico must strengthen its diplomatic struggle to find negotiated solutions in Central America. He said that his party will use every means at its disposal to support the government's foreign policy.

SENATOR CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA

PA312352 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Humberto Hernandez Haddad, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, said yesterday that at the present time "Latin America's finances and democratic institutions are threatened" and that, "in this respect, Mexico plays a vital role in the search for alternatives." He was interviewed a short time after President Miguel de la Madrid left on a tour of several Latin American countries. He said that this trip "is extremely important for the future of inter-American relations before we all collapse and long lines of creditors form for general negotiations, and the social and political structures of the region break down." Hernandez Haddad added that "Mexico is independently and peacefully searching for an understanding with our brothers in the southern cone."

Hernandez Haddad, who is also foreign affairs secretary of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], said in referring to U.S. Government statements that in the next few months, Washington is going to wage a propaganda campaign to interfere in every region of the world that has problems. He added that obviously "in Latin America, where Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venzuela continue their efforts to keep the peace in Central America, this U.S. campaign will have special emphasis."

He explained that President Ronald Reagan "is already preparing a campaign against Mexico to detract from our achievements in Latin America" and warned that Mexico "has to take emergency measures after making certain that there will be no war on the southern border promoted by the powers or their emissaries." He said that Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela are making efforts to keep the peace in Central America and that the country's position reaches beyond the propaganda war because it gurantees peace.

Hernandez said that at the present time "there are threats not only against Latin American finances, but against its democratic institutions as well." He added that "in this context, Mexico plays a vital role in the search for alternatives because our country does nothing that could worsen the economic crisis, but rather acts peacefully and with political maturity in dealing with threats, regardless of where they originate."

When he was queried about the problems on Mexico's southern border, he said that the country will not permit disturbances in the area because it is focusing its efforts toward maintaining peace and tranquillity.

TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC PACT SIGNED WITH GDR

FL301343 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- A 2-year technical and scientific bilateral cooperation agreement, which includes the exchange of specialists, was signed here by Mexico and the GDR at the offices of the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT).

CONACYT and the Scientific Research Academy of Mexico signed for Mexico and the Ministry for University and Technical School Affairs and the Academy of Sciences for the GDR.

It was learned that 30 Mexican students will visit Germany and the same number of German youths will come to Mexico to specialize in the branches of energy, steel industry, fisheries and fishing vessel construction, microelectricity, foodstuffs research work, electric engineering, pharmacy and its natural raw materials.

The agreement also provides for the exchange of scientists between participating agencies to develop research work in petrochemistry, biotechnology, nutrition, neurosciences, plants' biochemistry, mathematics, and physics for subsequent application in their respective countries.

Attending the signing ceremony were Asdrubal Flores, deputy director of the CONACYT International Affairs Department, and Marcos Rosenbum of Mexico's Scientific Research Academy, and for the GDR Deputy Minister for Higher and Technical Education (Klaus Thielmann) and that country's ambassador to Mexico, Joachim Naumann.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT GRANTS $25-MILLION CREDIT

PA312014 Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 11-A

[Text] A credit of up to $25 million (4.25 million pesos) to obtain raw materials, equipment, and spare parts has been granted to Mexico by the British Government. The formal arranging of the credit was made by the National Financing Bank [Nacional Financiera] through the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

It was learned that the short-term line of credit granted by the British organization was signed with the coordination of the Midland Bank, Ltd., at the Libor [London Inter Bank Offering Rate] plus 3/16 percent for a period of 180 days.

It should be mentioned that this financing has been at the disposal of Mexican industrialists and businessmen since 16 March. The British banking institutions Barclay's Bank, Lloyd's Bank, National Westminister Bank, and the Standard Charterer Bank are participating in granting this credit.

It was explained that the Midland Bank, Ltd., granted $5 million of financing for the importation of industrial machinery, equipment, and British-produced services .

NATIVE GROUP DEMANDS OUSTER OF U.S. MISSIONARIES

PA010124 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Mar 84 p 4

[By Mario Garcia Sordo]

[Excerpts] The National Coordinating Board of Native Peoples [Coordinadora Nacional de Pueblos Indigenas -- CNPI] considers it necessary for the missionaries of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (ILV) to leave the country because they cause division in the Indian communities and destroy the communal lives of the peoples. Genaro Dominguez, adviser of the CNPI, said that the ILV and its agents are performing ethnocide by laying the groundwork for the transnational companies to plunder the natural resources of the native peoples.

He said that some ILV officials in Mexico were involved in archeological looting, which is another activity of the U.S. missionaries who have been in the country continuously since 1935. He said that the federal government must expel the members of the ILV and confiscate their property, since in the past they have improperly received grants of properties, land, and financing to establish and expand their operations in the country.

"It is outrageous for the federal government to have supported and promoted the ILV in Mexico without recognizing its detrimental effects on the native groups. This is why in 1984 it is still operating quietly, in spite of the fact that President Miguel de la Madrid has requested its expulsion from the communities."

The CNPI representative said that the ILV is an organization that knew how to take advantage of the federal government's resources. It now owns 131 hectares of land in different states and the federal district. It also owns 96 buildings that include housing, offices, shops, apartments, and schoolrooms furnished with domestic appliances, laboratory equipment, and furniture. It also owns teletype machines, computers, printing presses, electric generators, photocopiers, and mimeographs. It has 28 Missavia model ssb600 35-watt single sideband transmitter-receivers and 21 Stones model ssb41 40-watt single sideband transmitter-receivers that have sufficient power to communicate with ILV headquarters in California.

Genaro Dominquez added that the ILV also owns motorcycles, tractors, boats, and other sundry instruments. Through Wings of Rescue [Alas del Socorro] it owns a number of planes distributed among the 12 large ILV airports in Mexico. At the same time, the native groups are increasingly demanding an end to the penetration of the U.S. missionaries, that the ILV agents be expelled, and that their native cultures be respected, he concluded.

PST DENOUNCES PEASANT EVICTION IN GUANAJUATO

PA011601 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 28 Mar 84 p 20

[Text] The Workers Socialist Party, PST, has denounced the brutal eviction suffered by peasants of the indigenous community of San Jose de Amoles, municipality of Cortazar, in Guanajuato, by 300 members of the Judicial Police of Cortazar. They were evicted yesterday from Vista Hermosa, San Antonio Puente de Picos, and El Mapache, where they had worked more than 500 hectares of farmland for more than 5 years, despite the fact that they have authentic land titles, which they presented to the authorities.

The PST charged that this action seeks to favor the landlords of the region, who are accomplices of the state authorities in an attempt to maintain control of the fertile lands.

The PST also condemned the arrest of a group of Socialist Youth members from the Anahuac neighborhood, who were made to board a vehicle by a group of judicial policemen.

Francisco Javier Mustafa Abraham is still under arrest.

BRIEFS

FINNISH MINISTER VISITS -- During a meeting with Mexican senators, Finnish Foreign Trade Minister Jermu Laine said that he is visiting Mexico to learn of the development of industry due to Finnish interest in investments in the country. He reported that Finnish capital investments in Mexico reach $17 million. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 21 Mar 84 p 11 PA]

NEW GOVERNMENT SECRETARY GENERAL -- Rodrigo Moreno Rodriguez has been appointed secretary general of the government, replacing Juan Maldonado Pereda, who resigned to assume a position in PRI. [Summary] [Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 24 Mar 84 p 6 PA]

NEW PRI COMMITTEE MEMBERS -- Senator Adolfo Lugo Verduzco, president of the PRI's National Executive Council, CEN, yesterday swore in three CEN members: Alberto Miranda Castro, Juan Saldana Rosell, and Eduardo Garcia Puebla. He also appointed Arturo Nunez Jimenez as assistant secretary of the presidency. Alberto Miranda Castro was appointed social action secretary; Juan Saldana Rosell was appointed information and propaganda secretary; and Eduardo Garcia Puebla was appointed general press coordinator. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 5 PA]

ILLUECA REITERATES HONESTY OF ELECTIONS

PA301955 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Excerpts] President Dr Jorge Illueca this morning dedicated the new information system which, through 40 computer terminals, will enable every citizen to learn within a few seconds the place and polling table number where he or she has to vote. The system operates with a total of 15 screens in the capital city's Electoral Tribunal headquarters and 66 others in all the provincial capitals. In addition to these screens, the equipment includes a similar number of printers that make it possible to deliver immediately the required information. This equipment will also be used during the elections to obtain information on electoral developments, broken down by province. After the inaugural ceremony, President Illueca said the following: [Begin Illueca recording] This is a demonstration for all citizens, all Panamanians, men and women from all ideological sectors that thanks to the honesty, rectitude, and dedication of the Electoral Tribunal magistrates [applause] and their technical and administrative personnel, the electoral process is under way in a democratic manner. We want to take advantage of this exemplary situation to tell the country and all our people to have faith in this process. All politicians, all Panamanian men and women, have a chance to win on the basis of their work, their words, and their dedication to resolving the national problems. There will be no fraud. [end recording]

Concerning the possibility that some sector might exert pressure in favor of a candidate, President Illueca said: [Begin Illueca recording] I think that right now there is great freedom for all parties and candidates to exercise their rights. I don't think there is any reason to believe that this freedom is in any way being restricted. This is what I want to point out. From our standpoint we are intent on maintaining the executive branch and the Electoral Tribunal, as well as their relations with the rest of the country, within the framework of the Constitution and the laws. [end recording]

PDP REPRESENTATIVES OUTLINE PARTY GOALS

PA302145 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Platform of the Panama People's Party, PDP, as read by party representatives Carlos Changmarin and Julio Bermudez on the "Voice of the Political Parties" program -- live]

[Excerpt] We pursue 12 goals:

1. Expansion of the people's democratic rights;
2. Defense of labor benefits;
3. A code to protect the family;
4. Creation and development of Indian districts;
5. Consolidation of the multisector or mixed model of economy;
6. A plan of investments and financing for national development;
7. Overall agrarian reform to provide food;
8. Defense of natural resources and the environment;
9. Strict adherence to the anti-colonial features of the Torrijos-Carter treaties;
10. Educational reform in line with the socioeconomic needs and the culture of the nation;
11. Defense forces that march alongside the people;
12. A nonaligned foreign policy that is committed to peace.

COSTA RICA

HONDURAN OFFICIAL VISITS; EX-ARMY CHIEF ARRIVES

Paz Barnica Arrives

PA010134 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0109 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica unexpectedly arrived in Costa Rica today at 2230 GMT aboard a Honduran Air Force jet. According to unofficial sources, he met here with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. The trip, arrival, and meeting of the Honduran official were maintained under strict secrecy, but airline workers confirmed the report to ACAN-EFE.

Reliable sources said that the Honduran foreign secretary came to brief the Costa Rican Government about the situation in his country and the reasons why most of the generals of the Armed Forces staff have been removed from their posts, removals that have yet to be explained. According to the sources, Paz Barnica's plane arrived at 1630 and parked in front of the diplomatic room. Paz Barnica left the plane there and was greeted by Gutierrez, and they entered the special reception room where they spoke behind closed doors for 1 hour. The Honduran secretary has returned to his country. No official report has been issued about the result of his mission.

Paz Barnica Meets With Monge

PA010312 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Report by William Cespedes from the Juan Santamaria International Airport -- live]

[Text] There is uncertainty about the presence in Costa Rica of Honduran Government officials. It has been confirmed that Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica was in Costa Rica for 1 hour and 45 minutes. During that time he met with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and President Luis Alberto Monge to brief them on the events in Honduras. General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez is said to have tried to stage a coup d'etat against the constitutional president of Honduras. Paz Barnica came to provide detailed information to the Costa Rican Government about the situation. Paz Barnica was received in the airport by Foreign Minister Gutierrez and taken to the private home of President Monge, with whom he spoke. He returned to Tegucigalpa at 1817 abroad Honduran Air Force plane No 002. According to the reports, Paz Barnica brought a message from the Honduran president to Monge.

With regard to Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, the resigning Honduran defense secretary [as heard], there is some mystery since it has been said that he might be arriving aboard a commercial flight from Tegucigalpa. Nevertheless, this plane, which has been delayed 45 minutes, is also bringing a group of the joint commission of the Contadora Group which is coming to talk with the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry. The Honduran ambassador to Costa Rica, who is in the airport waiting for this Honduran mission, is unaware that Honduran Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica was in the country.

Everything seems to indicate that Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez, the commander of the Honduran Armed Forces who resigned this afternoon, will not be coming to Costa Rica, but that he might be sent to the United States.

According to foreign policy officials, he would not be sent aboard a commercial plane that has to make a stopover in Managua, the government that Gustavo Alvarez sought to attack with his Armed Forces. In any case, this will be cleared up once the SAHSA [Honduran Air Service Company] airplane arrives in the Juan Santamaria Airport and we can see what Honduran officials are arriving. We will be able to see whether they are members of the joint commission that is preparing a report in accordance with the Contadora Group's instructions -- a report that will be issued at the end of April in Panama -- or whether they are on a mission linked to this afternoon's events in Tegucigalpa.

Gen Alvarez Arrives

PA011243 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1216 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Here is a report from San Jose, Costa Rica. A government source has confirmed that General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez today arrived in the Costa Rican capital a few hours after he had resigned as chief of the Honduran Armed Forces. The source said that Alvarez Martinez arrived at the international airport in San Jose in a military aircraft and was met there by Angel Edmundo Solano, Costa Rican public security minister.

Alvarez Martinez was accompanied by the other three top chiefs of the Honduran Army who, according to reports from Tegucigalpa, resigned from their posts along with Alvarez Martinez. The other military officers are General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command; and Brigade Generals Daniel Bali Castillo, commander of the Public Security Forces, which is the Honduran police force; and Ruben Montoya, commander of the Navy.

The resignations of the four top Honduran military officers was seen as a serious blow to the Honduran Armed Forces, and occurred 24 hours prior to the joint military exercises to be held by the Honduras and U.S. Armies.

The government source, who asked not to be identified, said that Alvarez Martinez and his three comrades-in-arms received an offer from Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge to grant them political asylum as a friendly and humanitarian gesture. Immediately after their arrival at Juan Santamaria airport, the four officers were taken by the Public Security Minister to an undisclosed location outside of the capital, the source said. The same source added that the Costa Rican Government was informed beforehand by Honduras regarding the arrival of Alvarez Martinez and his colleagues.

Two hours after the military officers had arrived, Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica arrived at the same airport, and was received by his Costa Rican counterpart, Carlos Jose Gutierrez. The two ministers went to President Monge's private residence, where they met for more than an hour. It was reported that the purpose of Paz Barnica's visit was to inform the Costa Rican President about the changes in the Honduran military leadership. It was officially announced that Paz Barnica returned to Tegucigalpa some 2 hours later in the same military aircraft that took him to San Jose.

Alvarez' Stay Said Temporary

PA012116 Paris AFP in Spanish 2036 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 1 Apr (AFP) -- A high-ranking official source told AFP today that General Gustavo Alvarez, former commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, "was planning a coup" against the Honduran Government.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that this was the reason for Alvarez' dismissal and expulsion from the country, along with three other Honduran Armed Forces officers on Saturday. The source said that Alvarez, who was brought to Costa Rica yesterday, will remain here "only for the time needed" to go to another country.

The source declined to reveal the whereabouts of Alvarez, Jose Bueso, former chief of staff, and the other generals, Humberto Montoya and Daniel Bali. It was also revealed by official sources that the Costa Rican Public Security Minister has begun a security operation for the protection of the former Honduran officers. At first it was believed that Alvarez would ask the Costa Rican Government for political asylum and would reside here. However, President Luis Alberto Monge, told the press today that the general will possibly go to Panama or Venezuela.

Alvarez Granted Asylum

PA012245 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2156 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 1 Apr (DPA) -- Costa Rica has given provisional asylum and will later grant permanent political asylum to General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, former commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces. Alvarez, who was dismissed from his post Saturday morning, arrived in Costa Rica at noon that same day aboard a light plane. Angel Edmundo Solano, Costa Rican public security minister, and Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez are coordinating the details of the asylum granted to the Honduran military officer. Alvarez will formally request asylum tomorrow from the Costa Rican Government, although he has already done so verbally.

An Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) official who met General Alvarez yesterday at the airport told DPA that the general "was downcast, in shirt-sleeves, and was only carrying a small briefcase." "He was unarmed. He had not even had breakfast by noon Saturday. We took him to the DIS offices, and he did not utter a single word on the way over."

Alvarez Martinez waited at the DIS office for a few minutes until Angel Edmundo Solano, Costa Rican public security minister, arrived. They met for about an hour behind closed doors. Later, they were served coffee and sandwiches. Solano had received word from Tegucigalpa on the Alvarez case. On instructions from President Monge, Solano has granted Alvarez all the proper courtesies. Today, Sunday, Alvarez Martinez is at a farm on the outskirts of San Jose, according to Minister Solano, who said that Alvarez is in good health.

EL SALVADOR

AVILA CLEARED IN MURDERS OF TWO U.S. LAWYERS

PA312019 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Captain Eduardo Ernesto Alfonso Avila made a deposition this morning at the Fifth Penal Court in connection with the trial to investigate the death and determine the responsibilitiy in the murder of U.S. lawyers Michael Hammer and Mark David Pearlman and Salvadoran peasant leader Jose Rodolfo Viera in early 1980 at the Sheraton Hotel in this capital. Capt Avila was absolved today of all responsibility in the triple murder.

The military man made his deposition before Fifth Penal Judge Dr Felipe Roberto Lopez Salguero, several defense lawyers, and officials from the District Attorney's Office. The officer's relatives told the press that Capt Avila was involved in this trial due to U.S. pressures. Someone had to be the scapegoat, and Capt Avila was chosen.

ELECTORAL COUNCIL RELEASES 'DEFINITIVE FIGURES'

PA011949 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1854 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Rosi Castillo report; all figures as heard]

[Text] Here are the latest figures supplied by the Central Electoral Council. On this occasion we have had the cooperation of Dr Ernesto Belloso Funes, who has read us the latest figures, the definitive figures, of the 25 March elections for president and vice president of the Republic. Here are the latest figures released at noon today.

[Begin Belloso recording] Thanks for this opportunity to inform the people of the definitive results of the recently held elections for president and vice president. The vote count ended early this morning and yielded the following definitive figures:

In San Salvador Department:

Christian Democratic Party [PDC]	205,381 votes
ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]	101,834
PCN [National Conciliation Party]	44,701
MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement]	3,066
PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party]	4,239
PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party]	6,237
Democratic Action [AD]	19,196
POP [Popular Orientation Party]	1,677

In Santa Ana Department:

PDC	66,832 votes
ARENA	41,781
PCN	26,368
MERECEN	644
PAISA	1,201
PPS	2,827
AD	3,986
POP	521

In San Miguel Department -- these are now departmental figures:

PDC	27,048 votes
ARENA	18,770
PCN	19,142
MERECEN	235
PAISA	817
PPS	1,916
AD	2,898
POP	277

In La Libertad Department:

PDC	65,024 votes
ARENA	48,792
[No PCN figures given]	
MERECEN	720
PAISA	1,318
PPS	2,586
AD	5,219
POP	546

In Usulutan Department:

PDC	20,708 votes
ARENA	19,184
PCN	19,932
MERECEN	269
PAISA	1,369
PPS	2,472
AD	1,933
POP	302

In Sonsonate Department:

PDC	47,921 votes
ARENA	35,448
PCN	20,517
MERECEN	583
PAISA	1,319
PPS	2,356
AD	1,933
POP	302

In La Union Department:

PDC	13,465 votes
ARENA	7,129
PCN	13,900
MERECEN	57
PAISA	296
PPS	861
AD	700
POP	91

In La Paz Department:

PDC	26,306 votes
ARENA	22,050
PCN	15,530
MERECEN	445
PAISA	1,063
PPS	1,021
AD	2,362
POP	241

In Chalatenango Department:

PDC	12,741 votes
ARENA	8,963
PCN	7,979
MERECEN	87
PAISA	638
PPS	368
AD	468
POP	78

In Cuscatlan Department:

PDC	11,509 votes
ARENA	18,544
PCN	11,158
MERECEN	183
PAISA	738
PPS	598
AD	1,150
POP	148

In Morazan Department:

PDC	9,059 votes
ARENA	5,939
PCN	8,077
MERECEN	30
PAISA	363
PPS	687
AD	424
POP	73

In San Vicente Department:

PDC	11,853 votes
ARENA	11,590
PCN	8,032
MERECEN	135
PAISA	375
PPS	688
AD	797
POP	101

In Ahuachapan Department:

PDC	24,299 votes
ARENA	23,763
PCN	16,954
MERECEN	136
PAISA	937
PPS	1,354
AD	1,011
POP	188

In Cabanas Department:

PDC	7,581 votes
ARENA	13,130
PCN	8,459
MERECEN	55
PAISA	757
PPS	424
AD	598
POP	77

These were the departmental figures. I will now read the total number of votes that each party received throughout the country.

PDC	549,727, which is 43.41 percent of valid votes
ARENA	375,917, which is 29.77 percent
PCN	244,558, which is 19.31 percent
MERECEN	-- the figuere is not printed very clearly here, but I believe it is 6,645 votes, which is 0.52 percent of valid votes
PAISA	15,430, which is 1.22 percent
PPS	24,395, which is 1.93 percent
AD	43,929, which is 3.47 percent
POP	4,677, which is 0.37 percent.

The figures you have just heard are the results of the recent elections for president and vice president in each department and nationwide. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Salvadoran people, and I hope to have the pleasure of doing so again. [end recording]

You have been listening to Dr Ernesto Belloso Funes from the offices of the Central Electoral Council, who also announced that run-off elections definitely will be held.

PDC CANDIDATE DUARTE ON ELECTORAL PROSPECTS

PA020348 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 2 Apr 84

["Meet the Press" feature]

[Text] This week's guests are the leaders of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. Next Sunday our guests will be the other party that will participate in the presidential runoff during the second round that will have to be held early in May according to the law. This is established in the Electoral Law if the legislators don't change the spirit and intent of the law. I repeat, next Sunday on Meet the Press our guests will be the leaders of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance].

Today's guests are Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, PDC vice presidential candidate; Jose Napoleon Duarte, PDC presidential candidate; and Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes. I would like to add that this is a part of the interview granted this morning at PDC leader Jose Napoleon Duarte's home.

This part of the press conference begins when Jose Napoleon Duarte is asked for the PDC's comment regarding the persistent rumors of a coup d'etat should he be chosen president of the Republic during the runoff. The following are his comments:

[Begin recording] [Duarte] I believe that during the 50 years of my life in this country, I have heard talk about coups d'etat every day. Therefore, it is nothing new to hear a rumor regarding a coup d'etat. We Salvadorans must be clear about this because it is nothing new for us. The people who are not aware of this are the foreigners. All of a sudden, there is confusion: Someone mentions a coup d'etat, and they create a big fuss. But we have an everyday experience regarding this matter of coups d'etat.

Regarding the United States -- we would have to speculate regarding what would happen in the United States if a coup d'etat did occur here. That is what they are thinking about in the United States, and not whether we will or will not have a coup d'etat.

I believe that a coup d'etat in El Salvador would affect the internal policy of the United States. It would affect President Reagan because all his foreign policy and his policy regarding Central America and El Salvador would crumble and this would place the U.S. Government and its policy in a very difficult situation. That is why there are rumors in the United States. They are afraid of any action in El Salvador that could affect them. The best thing the United States can do is to ensure the continuation of the democratic and electoral process. The best thing for the United States in El Salvador would be an end to the culture of terror, to the threats, deaths, abuse of authority, and death squads. The worst thing for the United States in El Salvador would be a dictatorship through a coup d'etat, through impositions, or through the culture of terror. That makes a strategy of the abuses of authority and death squads, and this is what Mr D'Aubuisson wants. Now this would be serious for the U.S. policy.

[Words indistinct] what the U.S. wants and should not pay attention to rumors. If the United States wants freedom in our area it is because we have our idiosyncracies and our way of being and we know many things that the United States does not know. [sentence as heard]

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think you will be allowed to take office again if you win the elections?

[Duarte] Well, I think that if I win the elections, I am the president of the Republic and they have to either give me the office accordingly, or they have to carry out a coup d'etat. In other words, the decision of surrendering or not surrendering is a decision of the people. On this occasion things would be much more serious because it would affect the whole world -- not only the country, but the whole world, because all they would do is surrender the country to the guerrillas because they would have no excuse to stop the people from democratically choosing their future.

[Reporter] Some high-ranking officials have said that they would support a coup d'etat should D'Aubuisson, not you, D'Aubuisson be elected. What is your opinion on this?

[Duarte] I would be against any coup d'etat that could be the result of an individual interpretation and against a free election. If the people freely choose their ruler, that decision must be respected.

[Reporter] You were saying that if you win the elections they would have to hand over the power to you. Do you feel you will be given the government or the power?

[Duarte] I am not playing the part of being a ruler. I am going to rule this country, and to rule this country you must have the complete control of the power. You can't play the role of being someone's puppet.

[Reporter] Including your position as general commander of the Armed Forces?

[Duarte] Including all the authority that must exist in this country.

[Reporter] Once in power, what will your policy toward the Reagan administration be? Will it agree with a continuation of military aid?

[Duarte] Once in power, I am going to present to the United States and the whole world, especially the Western world, a plan of the Salvadoran policy for relations with the world that is willing to help us. I will go to the United States to present this plan before the U.S. Congress, Government and the people. I will also do this in Europe because I want the Western world to know where we are headed, what we are going to do and how so that there will be no doubts. In this manner I am going to ask for the help that I believe will be advisable, military as well as economic aid.

[Question indistinct]

[Duarte] I will explain this at the right time.

[Reporter] Your opinion regarding what happened yesterday in Honduras?

[Duarte] What happened in Honduras?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] problem of the war in El Salvador?

[Duarte] I have made a suggestion. I believe that the phenomenon of war is not something that happens from one day to another. It did not happen in this manner. It is the result of a 50-year incubation period and of the fact that for the past 15 years, the sectors have been preparing for this war. Therefore, it is a historical product that has to be faced with a historical process. This is why I have said that I will not simply do as others say -- that what we need here is a final victory and a total war -- that is not a solution. That is facing only the symptoms of the problem and not the causes of the problem.

If you don't believe that, just look at what is happening in Lebanon and the Middle East. All you hear them say is that they are going to finish one another off and then you hear them say that they are going to negotiate. The problem is that they are not viewing the real problem, and as long as they don't do this, they will continue fighting.

I therefore suggest the idea that in the country we must have a process, a process that will face the causes and not the symptoms. The guerrilla is a symptom; he is the product of a series of sociological problems in the country. We therefore have to face the causes -- and as I have already said, there are four real causes aside from the structural causes, which are misery, hunger, lack of education [words indistinct].

We are faced with four types of violence; cultural, institutional, Nazi-fascist, and subversive violence. We have to face each of these types of violence with the right medicine. You can't give a person with malaria an aspirin: It will do him no good. You have to give that person the right kind of medicine. Therefore each of those factors has to receive its own medication. That is my plan, and we can accomplish it with time. No one can expect the government that will take over in June to solve the problem in June. No, it will be a difficult and tough process, but one that will advance and achieve peace -- a stable peace. This is why I am going to the United States to present this plan as a process and not as a simple solution.

[Reporter] Speaking of types of violence, how are you going to face type number four or number three -- the Nazi-fascist and terrorist violence?

[Duarte] I feel that your questions are important -- however, I feel that you must all understand that there are things that cannot be said until one has the program completed and under way. I believe that I have shown you that I have the political will to face the problem and that I also know how to face it. How to face it is what I will present as part of my duties when the time comes to do so.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] second round; have you received the support from any other party -- the PCN [National Conciliation Party]?

[Duarte] [Words indistinct] will answer.

[Unidentified speaker] The difference between first and second place is very, very clear. The difference is so big that in any other country of the world, the person in second place would have already admitted his defeat and would have asked the people to vote once and for all for the person in first place. The difference is enormous.

Secondly, the various political parties who came in third, fourth, and so on have a very difficult decision to make. Any attitude they assume in favor of one or the other parties could affect the institutionality, strength, and cohesion of their own political party. They are faced with a serious difficulty, a very serious problem that goes beyond saying, Vote for the PDC or ARENA. It is a situation that anyone can comprehend. Despite this, for the past 2 years at the assembly -- and the press is aware of this -- we have been working very closely with the PCN and Democratic Action [AD]. They have been closer to us than to ARENA.

Here we mentioned the famous democratic center where we were a majority 90 to 95 percent of the times when the PDC, PCN, and AD voted together against ARENA and the PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party]. Basically, this was the situation during all these months, and we believe that among the ranks of these parties there is an awareness of this situation.

I would like to point out that this is going to be a new process. De Leon or I don't know who did, but the question was asked regarding the problems we saw coming. There is one problem that has not been mentioned here and it is the second round. For the first time in this country, we are going to have a runoff and in that sense the people have to be very clear about what a second round is and what is understood about a second round. It is a new problem that all the political parties have to face.

For the first time, a person who has always voted for the PCN is going to find himself facing a ballot with the PDC and ARENA's banner on it, and his party's symbol will not appear on that ballot.

What attitude will that person have? What will that person support -- the defense of democracy, the struggle the PCN has waged with us for democracy and freedom? Or will he give in to pressures from one side or another? We don't know. But we do believe that the difference is so big that I feel that at least 50 percent of those who voted for another party will divide themselves among the two parties and we will obtain a victory quite easily. [end recording]

ARENA, PDC TO NAME BIPARTISAN COMMISSION

PA302108 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 84 pp 3, 73

[Excerpts] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] will appoint a bipartisan commission to recommend that the runoff voting procedure be as accessible as possible, that required guarantees be provided, and that the voting registry be eliminated. This was disclosed to EL DIARIO DE HOY by Alejandro Calderon Sol, ARENA"s representative at the Central Electoral Council. He argued that the voting registry was handled poorly because there are actual cases of hundreds of persons who were not listed, and, worst of all, it is not known why. We, the ARENA members, are prepared to struggle for the Salvadoran people to have the facilities and access required for them to express their will, Calderon Sol added.

He said that the polling places must be changed because schools were announced as polling places in Sunday's elections but the people did not even know about them. This was virtually the first time they had heard their names. In other instances, these educational centers did not even exist. He said there was great disorder, and he cannot understand why. It is important to concentrate more ballot boxes in well-known places, like the International Fair of El Salvador, which provide better facilities and easier access.

ARENA OFFICIAL RAFAEL HASBUN REPORTED MURDERED

PA010057 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0044 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] San Salvador, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Rafael Hasbun, former vice president of the Salvadoran Central Electoral Council [CCE] was murdered here this afternoon by unidentified individuals. Hasbun had been appointed to the CCE as a representative of the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). He left his post several weeks ago to engage in Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's electoral campaign for the presidency. According to first reports, Rafael Hasbun, a 52-year-old lawyer, was riddled with bullets by several men at 1730 (2330 GMT) in his office, in the Santa Anita residential sector in San Salvador.

GUATEMALA

INTERIOR MINISTER ON DIALOGUE WITH GUERRILLAS

PA020019 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] According to Interior Minister Gustavo Adolfo Lopez Sandoval, the military government headed by General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores could be open to a dialogue with the guerrillas that operate in various departments of the country, especially in the western areas of El Peten, Alta, and Baja Verapaz.

However, the minister responsible for the country's internal security said that for the time being there are no signs of inviting the leftist guerrillas to a dialogue in the country, but added that if a very special situation should arise which could promote a dialogue with the subversives, the government would be willing to do it. He said that such a dialogue -- something that has never been achieved in Guatemala -- would be aimed at getting the people who were sidetracked and joined the guerrillas to return to the fold with good Guatemalans. That is one possibility which could occur depending on a set of very special situations, Lopez Sandoval added.

HONDURAS

REPORTAGE ON GENERAL ALVAREZ' RESIGNATION

Armed Forces Communique

PA311852 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1834 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Communique No 1 issued by the Honduran Armed Forces High Command to the Honduran people, and to the national and international public, in Tegucigalpa on 31 March]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces High Command reports the following to the Honduran people and to the national and international public:

1. On this date General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez has filed his resignation from his post as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces.

2. According to the Armed Forces law, Gen Alvarez Martinez' resignation creates a vacancy in the office of Armed Forces commander in chief, for which reason the corresponding procedures have been undertaken to replace him legally in accordance with the Constitution and other pertinent laws.

3. The Armed Forces High Command has decided to immediately transfer Gen Alvarez Martinez abroad.

Alvarez Reportedly 'Dismissed'

PA311853 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1845 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was dismissed as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces by the ranking military command of this country today. The colonels who comprise the Honduran Army's general staff decided this morning that Gen Alvarez Martinez should leave the country immediately.

Suazo To Head Armed Forces

PA311928 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Communique No 2 issued by the Honduran Armed Forces High Command to the Honduran people, and to the national and international public, in Tegucigalpa on 31 March]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces High Command reports the following to the Honduran people and to the national and international community:

1. On this date General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa has resigned from the post he held as chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command.

2. According to the Armed Forces law, upon the absence of the Armed Forces commander in chief, it would become the task of the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command to perform this function provisionally.

3. Consequently, pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic, President Roberto Suazo Cordova, in his capacity as commanding general of the Armed Forces, assumes the functions of the Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief.

President Urges Calm

PA311954 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1930 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Honduran Government Communique No 3, issued to the Honduran people and the national and international public, in Tegucigalpa on 31 March]

[Text] The constitutional government of the Republic of Honduras announces the following to the Honduran people and to the local and international public:

1. It is the duty of the constitutional president of the Republic, in compliance with his constitutional obligations, to ensure that the Armed Forces are apolitical, essentially professional, obedient, and nondeliberative.

2. President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, in his capacity as commanding general of the Armed Forces, today assumed the functions that are legally ascribed to the commander in chief of the military institution by virtue of the resignation of Generals Alvarez Martinez and Bueso Rosa.

3. The Honduran Armed Forces and their High Command remain loyal to the Constitution, to the president of the Republic, and to the constitutional, democratic government, in conformity with the responsibilities and obligations that are proper to all armed institutions in all legal states in which the government has resulted from the free and sovereign expression of people's will.

4. The president of the Republic urges all Hondurans to remain calm, since the situation throughout the country is absolutely normal. We urge the Honduran people to remain alert to the reports that will be issued over this national radio network.

Planes Overfly Capital

PA312000 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1939 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Three "Super-Mystere" combat planes overflew the city today minutes after the resignation of general Gustavo Alvarez Martinez as commander in chief of the Armed Forces was announced. For the moment there is total confusion as to the reasons for this decision and the decision of the Armed Forces High Command to order Gen Gustavo Alvarez' "immediate" departure from the country. The rumors about the total confusion increased with the decision of General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, not to assume command, as is established by law. Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of the Republic, has assumed the command of the Armed Forces.

Radios Play Martial Music

NC312050 Paris AFP in English 2047 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, March 31 (AFP) — The commander-in-chief of the Honduran Army and his deputy have resigned and President Roberto Suazo will assume the top post temporarily, the government announced today. No reason was given for the sudden resignation of the commander, General Gustavo Alvarez. and his deputy, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff Jose Bueso. General Alvarez will be "immediately transferred to outside the national territory," one communique said.

The government at noon [1800 GMT] ordered the tiny central American nation's 157 radio stations to suspend their programs, substituting martial music and national announcements, of which there were three in less than four hours. The latest announcement said the Armed Forces "are remaining loyal to the president" and urged "all Hondurans to remain quiet as the situation in the entire country is absolutely normal."

The ousters came a day before the start of large-scale U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers code-named "Granadera I." Unofficial reports said General Alvarez may already have left Honduras, and attributed his ouster to interference with policy matters.

Communique: Situation 'Normal'

PA312117 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 2050 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Government communique issued in Tegucigalpa on 31 March]

[Text] To the Honduran people and the local public: By this means, the citizenry is informed that the situation is normal throughout the national territory, that constitutional order is unimpaired and that the law continues to prevail.

We repeat: To the Honduran people and the local public: By this means, the citizeny is informed that the situation is normal throughout the national territory, that constitutional order is unimpaired, and that the law continues to prevail. By this means we ask the citizenry to dismiss all concern, since the resignations that have been announced imply no alteration of the democratic purposes of the constitutional government, or of the goals that have been set for the benefit of the legal regime, of which the Armed Forces are the guarantors.

The Honduran people must not allow themselves to be swayed by rumor and speculation. The government of the Republic and its arm of defense, committed to the present and future of the nation, guarantee the inviolability of all civil rights and the protection of Honduras' sacred interests.

The people must dismiss all concern, since it is unwarranted. Radio stations will remain in network until such time as the network is dissolved by the constitutional government of the Republic. However, this should in no way be interpreted as indicative of a state of emergency.

We repeat: Radio stations will remain in network until such time as the network is dissolved by the constitutional government of the Republic. However, this should in no way be interpreted of as indicative of a state of emergency.

The constitutional government of the Republic upholds the majesty of the law and the respect with which and for which the Honduran people have gone to the polls in the electoral process. Early this evening, the constitutional president of the Republic and chief of the Armed Forces, in his capacity as commanding general, will address the Honduran people. We repeat, in the early evening, the constitutional president of the Republic and chief of the Armed Forces, in his capacity as commanding general, will address the Honduran people.

FUSEP, Navy Commanders Resign

PA312130 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 2118 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Communique No 4 to the Honduran people and the public in general in Tegucigalpa on 31 March]

[Text] You are hereby informed that Brigadier General Daniel Bali Castillo has resigned from his post as commanding general of the Public Security Forces [FUSEP] and Brigadier General Ruben Montoya has resigned from his post as commanding general of the Navy Forces.

President's Residence Blocked

PA312228 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2216 GMT 31 March 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Minutes before 1600 (2200 GMT), military forces are blocking access to the Presidential Palace, preventing anyone from entering. Sources inside the government house told ACAN-EFE by telephone that Honduras President Roberto Suazo Cordova "is not inside the building." They added that "he is expected to arrive in the next few hours to tape a message that will be broadest over radio and television to the country tonight." The sources that ACAN-EFE contacted over the telephone inside the Presidential Palace said that "it is very probable that a number of resignations from high-ranking military positions will be publicly announced in the next few minutes." So far, all the military chiefs of the branches of the Armed Forces, with the exception of the Air Force commander, Walter Lopez Reyes, have resigned in solidarity with General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez.

Aborted Coup Rumored

PA312348 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2311 GMT 31 Mar 84

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The General Staff officers of the Honduran Armed Force, with the exception of Brig General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander of the Air Forces, today resigned for unknown causes, but which might be attributed to an aborted coup d'etat. The Honduran Air Force installations, located in the southern outskirts of the city, are being heavily guarded by an armored unit with 105-mm cannon and M-60 machine guns. At the same time, armored cars are cruising through the Air Force installations while internal security forces are dressed in full combat gear. At other garrisons, however, including government house, there is no discernible military movement and pedestrians are walking the streets normally, although the people are all listening to transistor radios. All the cabinet ministers are meeting at the Air Force headquarters, from which a domestic service radio and television network has been operating since 1100 today (1700 GMT).

In the streets of Tegucigalpa the people are commenting on the events with amazement and have termed the situation as "a backward coup" because they believe that President Suazo Cordova, a civilian, has deposed a general and his general staff, but with the "full support of another general." Movie theaters are open for business and television stations carry normal programming, which is frequently interrupted to broadcast official bulletins. Four have been issued so far. At the sports stadiums the people are watching their favorite soccer games and there has been no word on the possible suspension of the national soccer championships slated for tonight. It has been announced that the Honduran president will speak to the nation early tonight.

Secretary Addresses Diplomats

PA010217 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0044 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Statement by Carlos Roberto Flores Facusse, Honduran secretary of the presidency, at a meeting with the diplomatic corps in the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] Your Excellencies, ambassadors and representatives of the international organizations accredited in our country:

We are here at the instructions of constitutional Honduran President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova to inform you broadly of the latest events, information that has been given to the national and international public through the official communiques issued by the constitutional and democratic government of the Republic.

You already know that the General Gustavo Adolfo Martinez, chief of the Armed Forces, presented his resignation today. General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa, chief of the joint command of the Armed Forces; General Daniel Bali Castillo, commanding general of the Public Security Force; and General Ruben Humberto Montoya, commanding general of the Naval Force, have also done likewise.

In accordance with the Constitution and the Armed Forces law, the president of the Republic, as commanding general of the Honduran Armed Forces, has assumed the functions and responsibilities of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, pending the fulfillment of the legal procedures that the Constitution establishes for his legal replacement by the legislative branch, the National Congress.

What has happened is due to an internal reorganization within the Armed Forces by order of the military High Command and the constitutional president of the Republic. We believe that what has happened today is a consolidation of the civilian and democratic regime headed by Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova. It is the strengthening of the democratic process in Honduras, since the Constitution has fully prevailed and the president of the Republic has assumed functions and responsibilities in accordance with what the basic law of Honduras establishes.

In regard to international policy, the government's foreign policy, we want to state and reiterate our commitment first of all to respect for the principles of international law; to respect for all the principles of the Constitution, full individual guarantees, the constitutional rights and guarantees; to respect among nations; as well as our conviction, determination, and commitment to continue consolidating the democratic and pluralistic process by the peaceful and constitutional path.

The president of the Republic has asked us to reiterate our commitment to the process of social and economic transformation that the country is experiencing, respect for free and organized unionism, respect for the peasant organizations -- in short, respect for the nation's legal institutions and the professional and business organizations.

We maintain our commitment to that peaceful, pluralistic, and democratic transformation that we are experiencing in Honduras.

The situation is completely normal throughout the country. There is full unity within the Honduran Armed Forces. We have stated that the high command is loyal to the Constitution, to the democratic and constitutional government and its president and commanding general, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova. This constitutes a reiteration of what has been stated in the official communiques. Our duty and obligation is to make this directly known to the representatives of the various diplomatic missions accredited in this nation, since our constitutional commitment and our friendship with the nations that have diplomats accredited in Honduras remains unalterable.

We are going to ask the national and international press to allow us after this official statement to hold a private meeting with the representatives of the diplomatic corps in Honduras.

Suazo Broadcasts Message

PA010420 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0337 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Message to the Honduran people by President Roberto Suazo Cordova, acting chief of the Armed Forces, from his office in the government house in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] Beloved compatriots: I address the local and international public in my capacity as constitutional president of the Republic and commanding general of the Armed Forces to explain my opinion regarding the internal reorganization that has been carried out today by the high command of our country's military institution.

Within the basic legal provisions, as a result of this reorganization, and in conformity with the Armed Forces Charter, today I assumed the functions of commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

The Military High Command has reported in the appropriate communiques that General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez and General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa have presented their resignations and thus have ceased to function as commander in chief of the Armed Forces and as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, respectively, in an appropriate action that seeks to ensure the faithful compliance, by the Armed Forces, with the specific functions conferred upon them by the Constitution of the Republic.

In view of these events of undoubted importance to the nation's life and to the international image of the country and government that I head, I feel that my legal and patriotic responsibility to see that the Armed Forces are apolitical, obedient, basically professional and nondeliberative has been strengthened. As a result of this, our military institution, which has once again given evidence of its full identification with the nation's interests, has categorically reaffirmed its effective support for the Republic's Constitution, its firm support for the president of all Hondurans, and its unwavering support for the constitutional, democratic government that guides the destiny of our beloved Honduras because it has resulted from the people's freely expressed will.

The Honduran people, with deep-seated civic awareness, have spared no sacrifices or efforts in the generous task of creating and consolidating democracy as a system for living and of government. Recent history bears testimony to this statement.

If our people's aspirations are not to be deferred, however, it is an indispensable prerequisite that those who occupy high positions in the administration of state affairs do their duty; otherwise, there will be a weakening of the very foundations of the representative institutions that those officials are obliged to enhance because they are a synthesis of our feeling of nationality and the decorum of our republican convictions.

As a ruler and as a citizen, I have sought at all times, without regard for the effort or difficulties involved, to see that activities like that I described do not deviate from the constitutional mandates. Because I believe in the Armed Forces as a professional institution, I have always identified with its ideals for the benefit of our country. Because I believe in the honest soldier, I also believe in the reorganization carried out within the Armed Forces by its High Command, because I am sure that this action is designed to consolidate internal democracy, enhance guarantees of human dignity, and strengthen our constant struggle as the standard-bearers of peace.

Hence I maintain what I have expressed on many occasions in the fulfillment of my duties: that the military should not meddle in political affairs, and that politicians should not meddle in military affairs. This is basic to strengthening the democratic process and the existence of and respect for the civilian regime within a legal state.

Tonight, the ministers of the presidency, of foreign affairs, and of government and justice, after an invitation was issued in this regard, met with the diplomatic corps accredited in our country, to explain to the international community, on behalf of the government, the significance and scope of the events that we have mentioned, and their positive repercussion in favor of democracy and peace.

The foreign minister also met today in San Jose, Costa Rica, with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, who reiterated his full support for the constitutional, democratic civilian government that I head by the decision of the Honduran people.

Dear compatriots, be untroubled, because the integrity of our government is based now, more than ever before, on our moral and civic strength to achieve, by means of constructive work in the present, a promising future for all Hondurans. You may feel secure in pursuing your goals and aspirations for individual and collective advancement, because we will continue, with renewed optimism and determination, to struggle to achieve economic and social development; the solution of the complex problems that burden us; a valiant defense of our sovereignty and our democratic, participatory, and pluralistic system; and peace for Central America, as well as to extend our unvarying support for the efforts of the Contadora Group in an era of dangers and threats that require our commitment to serve the people and our adherence to the principles of international law.

You may feel calm and secure, because the president of the Republic will never waver in his daily dedication to the cherished interests of the people who elected him with their sovereign mandate, and because our Armed Forces have done honor to the ideals that nourish their institutional existence: loyalty, honor and sacrifice.

Thank you very much, beloved compatriots.

Congress President Interviewed

PA011415 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Report by Wilman Torres]

[Excerpts] Here is Efrain Bu Giron, president of the National Congress, who is currently touring the city of Ocotepeque on a special mission. He will represent the president of the Republic at a special event to be held at 1000 hours in Ocotepeque. At this event a subsidy will be delivered to the students, parents, and faculty of the teachers school in Ocotepeque. We took advantage of the opportunity to speak to Bu Giron late last night here in Santa Rosa de Copan. We noticed that the hotel where he is staying is being guarded by security forces and members of the Department of National Investigation, DIN.

In political and military circles it has been learned that General Walter Lopez is being mentioned as the next chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, and that other ranking officers such as General Rosales Abella are being considered for key positions in the military leadership. It can even be said that promotions to general are in the offing. Right now, however, we are going to speak to Bu Giron, president of the National Congress, who will first tell us of his visit to the western part of the country, mainly to Ocotepeque Department.

[Begin recording] [Torres] Regarding the resignations of the top members of the national Army, what can you tell us?

[Bu Giron] I was absent from the capital today when the resignations occurred. I understand that [words indistinct] the government will continue to receive the support of the Armed Forces and [words indistinct] democratic spirit of this government.

[Torres] What is your opinion of President Suazo Cordoba's message to the nation?

[Bu Giron] It was appropriate to the circumstances, well thought out, and full of faith in this country's promising future. [passage indistinct]

[Torres] Regarding General Alvarez' resignation?

[Bu Giron] Gen Alvarez [words indistinct] he has resigned from his post.

[Torres] Who might become the next chief of the Armed Forces?

[Bu Giron] Well, it should be a (?ranking officer) who has all the requirements that the Constitution demands for the individual who heads the Armed Forces. [words indistinct]

[Torres] So during the coming week you at the National Congress will have the proposals?

[Bu Giron] The National Congress will have to elect [words indistinct] Gen Alvarez.

[Torres] [Words indistinct] new chief of the Armed Forces?

[Bu Giron] [Words indistinct] the ranking military leadership must first propose three names, and then the Congress must decide from among these names.

[Torres] Any message for the Honduran people?

[Bu Giron] My message to all Hondurans is, as always, one of unity, cordiality, and [words indistinct] of Honduras; we have to uphold the ideals of [word indistinct], love, and understanding among men to maintain peace. [end recording]

It has just been learned that Air Force General Walter Lopez might be the next chief of the Armed Forces. General Rosales Abella might also be appointed to a key leadership post. Rosales Abella is a brother of a lawyer who belongs to the Liberal Party. A top government official has said that the Honduran people should remain calm because the situation has practically been resolved.

Speech Linked to Events

PA011346 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1254 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Report by Salvador Canales from San Pedro Sula]

[Text] Your attention to this report related to the involuntary resignation of General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, who bade farewell [se despidio] as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces in a meeting with businessmen in the northwestern region. It is believed that General Alvarez' mistake may have been after his arrival in San Pedro Sula last Friday, when he met with 140 businessmen, whom he told that he was preparing for something serious and thus requesting their monetary contributions. Let us hear part of the information, that is, the report, in detail.

Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez bade farewell as commander in chief of the Armed Forces during a meeting with businessmen of the northwestern region that was held at the Cortes Chamber of Commerce and Industry last Friday night. In his speech he made it understood that it would not be too long before he would leave the post assigned to him by the Armed Forces. The businessmen contributed 115,000 lempiras to strengthen the Pro-Development Association of Honduras [Asociacion Para el Desarrollo de Honduras -- APRO], which was led by Gen Alvarez Martinez. The APRO had reportedly contracted with several retired North Americans in the United States to come to Honduras and advise Honduran businessmen who will benefit from the famous Reagan Caribbean Basin Initiative.

Also, in the meeting held in San Pedro Sula, the APRO businessmen agreed to contribute 1,000 lempiras every month to maintain this organization. One hundred and forty businessmen pledged their support.

Also, Gen Gustavo Alvarez, now the former commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, arrived at the meeting accompanied by lawyer Osvaldo Ramos Soto, who is the rector of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, who made it understood in his speech that he plans to be reelected for another term as university rector. Another person who attended the meeting, from which reporters were barred, was Rafael Leonardo Callejas, a militant of the National Party of Honduras.

Also, after what is already known through the official bulletins, there are many questions being asked by inhabitants of San Pedro Sula: What course will the government tak take now? Who will be the new commander in chief of the Armed Forces?

It was noted that after midday yesterday the streets of San Pedro Sula were deserted. Everyone was home awaiting official reports. Sports events were canceled yesterday and also for today, Sunday. A political rally had been planned today in the northwestern region, in the (Quintal) Valley, but it might be suspended because it is understood there will be another radio network to provide more details from the government on what is happening.

Liberal Party Backs Suazo

PA011502 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1328 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Statement released by the Central Executive Council of the Liberal Party of Honduras, PLH, on 31 March in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] Loyal to its democratic principles, and as guardian of our constitutionality, the PLH Central Executive Council announces to Honduran Liberals:

1. That in accordance with yesterday's incidents -- the resignations of General Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, General Jose Abdenego Bueso Rosa as chief of the Armed Forces joint command, General Daniel Bali Castillo as commanding general of the Public Security Force, and General Ruben Humberto Montoya as commanding general of the Naval Force -- Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, constitutional president of the Republic, has assumed the role of chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, in his role as commanding general.

2. That in fulfilling its constitutional obligations, the Army remains loyal to Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, commanding general of the Armed Forces.

3. That throughout the national territory, normalcy, peace, and order prevail completely, and total respect for democratic and civic institutions is being maintained.

4. That as an indestructible pillar of Honduran democracy, the PLH must remain alert, firm, and secure, backing the national constitutional government presided over by His Excellency Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova and the Honduran Armed Forces.

5. That with discipline and patriotic fervor, aware of our mission and responsibility as a majority party in Honduras, we unconditionally support constitutional President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, expressing our solidarity with the provisions adopted to defend consitutionality and bolster the republican institutions.

6. Democracy is being consolidated in our homeland, and the PLH, permanent guardian of the representative and pluralist system, unreservedly backs its great leader, Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova.

EXERCISE WITH U.S. ARMY TO BE HELD AS PLANNED

PA010436 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0344 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Honduran Government announcement issued in Tegucigalpa on 31 March]

[Text] Attention Honduran people. We hereby report that the events in the last few hours, which fall within the constitutional procedures and normality, will not be any obstacle for the continuation of the combined exercises between the Honduran and U.S. Armies.

They will be carried out as scheduled by the constitutional government of Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova and the U.S. Government. Normality prevails throughout the country. Democracy continues its process of solifidation and of unobjectionable validity.

Tegucigalpa, 31 March 1984

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA, RAMIREZ DISCUSS EVENTS IN HONDURAS

PA010513 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0050 GMT 1 Apr 84

["Face the People" program, with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado; and Maria Esther Castillo, member of the Angel Valentin Obarrio neighborhood Sandinist Defense Committee, at the Angel Valentin Obarrio neighborhood -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] We feel secure because thousands of Nicaraguan brothers from these same neighborhoods of the cities of Managua, Leon, Chinandega, Masaya and Rivas and brother peasants are facing the counterrevolution and the traitors that the imperialist policy is throwing against us. Where are they facing them? At the border area. There they are fighting under difficult conditions so that we can hold these activities.

Since noon today the news agencies have been reporting on a situation that has taken place in Honduras. In Honduras they called for a radio network that has lasted for several hours, and the Honduran Armed Forces have announced that they have accepted the resignation of General Gustavo Alvarez and three other members of the Armed Forces general staff. The latest reports said that Mr Alvarez had already left Honduras and was now, according to some sources, in the United States. Other reports said that he was in Costa Rica.

It is well known that the United States has supported its terrorist policy of aggression against the Nicaraguan people with persons like Mr Alvarez. The truth of the matter is that today all we can say, because we cannot advance an opinion concerning the causes of these sudden changes in Honduras, is that the United States has tried to compromise, it has in fact been compromising Honduras in the policy of aggression against Nicaragua and against the people of El Salvador. General Alvarez was, so to speak, the principal pawn, the principal agent of the United States in Honduras.

Now comes this critical situation, it is a crisis that has occurred today in Honduras. As I said, we cannot advance an opinion about what will happen regarding the conduct of the Honduran Armed Forces and the Honduran Government now that Mr Alvarez and other members of the Honduran general staff have left.

What we can say is that Nicaragua has always been ready to engage in dialogue with the Honduran Armed Forces, with the Honduran Government, to meet with the Honduran president and the Honduran Army high command, as we did on one occasion when a few years ago we met with General Policarpo Paz and the Honduran Army high command in Guasaule. There we held a meeting and tried to establish the bases to implement a policy of understanding bewteen Honduras and Nicaragua.

Since then the situation has become complicated. Honduras has been getting involved. It has become occupied by the U.S. troops. The U.S. Armed Forces have been establishing bases in Honduras. All this has taken place mainly with the approval and support of General Alvarez.

What we can say tonight regarding this critical situation in Honduras, regarding these changes in the Honduran Armed Forces command, is that Nicaragua reaffirms its readiness to engage in dialogue, to provide political solutions for the problems, to hold meetings with the Honduran authorities so that the Central American people can provide solutions to the existing problems and so that a policy of confrontation will not continue to be imposed on us, which only causes bloodshed of the Central American people.

[Maria Esther Castillo] What is our government's opinion on the position expressed by our bishops concerning the aggressions and pain that our people are suffering as we fight to preserve the peace? [applause]

[Ortega] Regarding the position of the bishops, we must say that they are making use of the right that the revolution gives everyone to express themselves, so that everyone can give an opinion, including in terms of guidance or on politics.

I believe that we are facing an aggression and are surprised that this situation that is being experienced by the Nicaraguan people was not even mentioned. We are surprised that no mention was made of the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. Government, crimes committed daily against the Nicaraguan people. Everyone knows, the people of the United States know, the U.S. bishops have denounced, that the U.S. government is involved in this criminal policy against the Nicaraguan people.

Therefore, we believe that the position expressed by the bishops is a political position that does not correspond to the situation of aggression that the Nicaraguan people are experiencing. The truth of the matter is that we are facing this aggression, and we also have the coming elections. I believe that it would be interesting to promote the elections from every angle. It would be interesting if the Christian people, as they did in the fourth century, could elect their bishops.

We believe that a statement made this way, somewhat over the heads of the people, without dealing with reality, without dealing with the people, does not have the necessary strength. Therefore, it cannot be an authentically Christian expression. On the contrary, it is probably an anti-Christian statement. In the final analysis, it could have been made by other persons who are not Christians. Why? Because of that lack of contact with the people, with reality, with the Nicaraguan people's struggle, with the effort being made by the Nicaraguan people in all areas.

It must be said, in this regard, that the U.S. bishops are more aware of the real situation of the Nicaraguan people than some Nicaraguan bishops. They are involved with this reality. They are more aware of this reality. Why? Because the bishops there have clearly condemned the policy of the Reagan administration, while we have never heard a statement here that condemns that policy.

All that is left for us to say is that we are concerned about that attitude. We think that bishops in Nicaragua have the opportunity to act alongside the people, alongside the humble and the poor, not alongside the rich, alongside the exploiters, alongside imperialist, where they have placed themselves at present. [applause]

[Hernandez] My name is Jose Mauricio Hernandez. I am a member of the community of zone 10, block 10. How would relations with Nicaragua be affected by the withdrawal of Gustavo Alvarez [former chief of the Honduran Army] and the other U.S. sectors [as heard]?

[Ramirez] Companero, basically your question has already been answered by Companero Daniel Ortega. We spent this afternoon evaluating the news from Honduras about the movements within the Armed Forces. It is obvious that this situation is of interest to the Nicaraguan people, especially because all the acts of aggression prepared by the U.S. Government against the Nicaraguan people have been based in Honduras. Not only have they been based in Honduras, but these acts have been carried out with the full cooperation of the Honduran Army high command. It was the Honduran Army high command, which was represented by Mr Alvarez until today, that permitted the installation of the counterrevolutionary bases and camps in Honduras; that allowed the weapons, ammunition, airplanes, and helicopters for the counterrevolutionaries to arrive in Honduras; and that permitted the counterrevolutionaries, after every incursion into Nicaragua, to withdraw to Honduras where they have reinforcements, hospitals, doctors, logistical support, all with the direct support of the Honduran Army.

The U.S. Government, the Reagan administration, had found in Mr Lavarez the ideal person for these aggressive plans. He was a man with a completely caveman, backward mentality who believed -- God knows why -- that he was ordained to be the one who would save Central America from the Sandinist threat. Therefore, now that this man has disappeared along with his cohorts, it is obvious that something new is happening there, that something different could happen, and this is what we have to observe closely.

However, this change does not mean that the U.S. military presence in Honduras has changed. It does not mean that those maneuvers that are being set up there, that those aggressive maneuvers -- the construction of airports, the landing of U.S. Marines, that entire military apparatus that is being assembled there against Nicaragua and El Salvador -- have ended with this replacement. We must clearly realize that we cannot lower our guard. We can only wait and see what happens in the next few hours. Meanwhile, the most important message that the Sandinist people's revolution and the government of national reconstruction can give is the one expressed by Commander Ortega: Nicaragua is predisposed toward dialogue. It remains open to dialogue. Let us hope that this change will permit a serious, constructive dialogue with the Honduran Armed Forces.

[Ortega] A number of questions have been asked tonight. I am sure that you must still have more. Our country's resources are limited. It is true that we have the possibility of developing more resources, but reality is another thing. We have the possibilities of improving the country's situation, but the United States does not let us improve the country's situation. For example, if there wasn't any aggression; we could solve the problems -- not all the problems, let us not deceive ourselves, but we could solve more problems than we are solving right now. The aggression limits us with regard to solving a number of social problems, to a number of social needs, water, electricity, road, housing problems, and so forth. The aggression effects us in this regard.

We have said that the situation in 1984 is more difficult. It is more difficult. Is it because there is lack of capacity and work by the people? No, the people have a large capacity to respond and to work.

The problem is that the aggression is increasingly bigger. We are facing an increasingly bigger aggression from the U.S. Government. Right now we are facing the blockage that they are in fact establishing by placing mines in our main ports. Our only port practically is Corinto. Last night a Japanese ship hit an explosive device, a mine that the U.S. Government places, that it sends to be placed in the Nicaraguan ports. Already six or seven ships have hit them. These include the Dutch dredge, a British ship, a Liberian-flaged ship, the Soviet ship, this Japanese ship, the ship of the Caribbean Multinatinal Shipping Line, NAMUCAR, and some national ships. In other words, there is a situation promoted by the United States. Another action has taken place. Some ships have been attacked by the CIA boats, the "Piranha" boats.

Therefore, there is an action of terrorism promoted by the United States against the Nicaraguan people. What are those ships bringing? Those ships are bringing food, medicine, spare parts for tractors, machinery to work the fields, spark plugs that we don't produce, and elctrical wire. With this the United States is blocking us. It is trying to close the possibilities of bringing supplies for the Nicaraguan people. It is trying to paralyze the country. What does this logically tell us? That this year is going to be a hard year. We are not going to come here to tell you: Companeros, this year will be better than last year in the economic field. We cannot say that. Of course, if we did not have aggression, we could tell you that this year is going to be economically better than last year. We would certainly say that. But since we have the aggression, we must tell you: Companeros, this year is going to be harder than last year, and we must prepare to face such a difficult year.

REPORTAGE ON MINES, OTHER NAVAL ACTIVITY

Eight Vessels Damaged

PA301905 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] A total of eight merchant and fishing vessels and tankers have been damaged so far as a result of mines planted in our Pacific and Atlantic jurisdictional waters in the last 2 months. The damage caused to two fishing boats of a Nicaraguan fishing company yesterday increased to five the number of boats sabotaged in the Bay of Corinto on the Pacific coast. Other actions affecting the Nicaraguan economy were reported in the ports of El Bluff, on the Atlantic, and Sandino, on the Pacific.

There is no official estimate yet available on the damage caused by the mines. Several sailors and passengers have been wounded in these actions. The Defense Ministry, following an investigation of these terrorist acts, has concluded that the mines are highly sophisticated and manufactured by the arsenals of the U.S. Armed Forces.

'Piranha' Boats Attack Corinto

PA301707 Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Managua, 30 Mar (AFP) -- "Piranha" speedboats carrying high caliber mortars and machine guns carried out another attack early this morning against the Port of Corinto, 150 km northwest of Managua, AFP has learned. According to the initial reports, the "Piranha" speedboats, the registration numbers of which could not be confirmed, made several incursions into the waters of the Pacific Port of Corinto between 2300 Thursday and 0200 Friday.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said they did not know if there were any victims in the Sandinist Navy or whether any of the attacking boats was hit during the attack. "There was a lot of gunfire throughout the night, but we do not know the results," a Corinto resident interviewed over the telephone said.

Contras: Major Ports Mined

PA301813 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1716 GMT 30 Mar 84

[By Juan Antonio de Lucas]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] warned today that "the principal Nicaraguan ports are mined and all efforts to deactivate the mines will be useless." "Many more ships will be damaged by those mines if the international navigation companies insist on entering Nicaraguan ports," an FDN spokesman told this agency today. He added: "We trust that the incidents which have taken place so far are enough to convince the countries which support the Sandinist dictatorship that our threats are real." According to the FDN member, "we intend to blockade the Sandinist regime's commercial traffic, especially the arrival of crude oil shipments, which keep the gigantic war apparatus on its feet." In its last broadcast, Radio 15 September, the FDN's official mouthpiece, transmitted a communique released by the FDN Directorate. According to the communique, "Nicaragua's major ports and access channels are mined and will remain so as long as the Sandino-communist regime illegally remains in power." "The mines," the rebel station added, "will be removed by the FDN only when Nicaragua is free of communist totalitarianism." According to Radio 15 September, "only the FDN" has both the capacity and the knowledge needed to deactivate these mines.

The FDN has addressed a message to the international maritime companies, urging them to suspend their commercial traffic with Nicaragua. It has also warned Lloyds of London, the world's leading insurance company, that it should not continue unnecessarily exposing itself to financial losses. According to the FDN, the Sandinist regime is solely responsible for this situation because "it has falsely assured the insurance companies and ship owners that its coasts are free of mines."

For "security reasons," the FDN spokesman consulted by ACAN-EFE refused to disclose which ports have been mined and how many mines have been planted in all. He asserted, however, that "the ports with the most traffic, which are easily identified, have in their waters enough mines so as not to make it worthwhile to continue risking ships and human lives to supply the communists who rule Nicaragua."

Although the mining of Nicaraguan ports was not accorded any importance internationally until 20 March, when a Soviet ship was damaged, the FDN announced this operation on 9 January. A month later, two Nicaraguan ships of low tonnage sank when they hit mines in the port of El Bluff on the Atlantic. Then in February, two merchant ships were damaged in the Port of Corinto on the Pacific, and on 20 March a mine hit the Soviet ship Lugansk, injuring five of its crew members.

Fishing Boat Hits Mine

PA301838 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1801 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Another ship has been damaged as a result of the explosion of a mine. Luis Arroliga, our correspondent in Corinto, has the report. Go ahead, Luis.

[Begin Arroliga live relay] Listeners of the entire country, this is a report direct from Alimsa [Alimentos Interamericanos, SA]: Today at 0800 the criminal mines placed by Ronald Reagan's imperialists caused the explosion of a boat identified as the Alma Sultana. Four people were injured by the blast: Officer Felix Delgado, Ramon Medina, Jose Angel Jimenez, and Claudio Vasquez. The explosion occurred at buoy No 3. This is the third Alimsa boat to be damaged in the past 3 days as a result of the mines that the CIA criminals have placed. Right now, the vessel is sinking in the waters of the Port of Corinto. [end relay]

ARDE, FDN Cooperation Alleged

PA311412 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2248 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The two leading anti-Sandinist organizations, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), have established a joint plan to mine the ports of Nicaragua, a "counterrevolutionary" militant told ACAN-EFE today.

"The cooperation exists," the FDN spokesman said, "because we share the common objective of blocking the Sandinist military apparatus by interrupting its foreign supply of crude oil." He added that "ARDE elements were in charge of mining the Port of Corinto in the Pacific, while commandos of our organization did so at the entrance Puerto Sandino and in other places."

Up until now the two principal anti-Sandinist organizations fighting on the southern border with Costa Rica and the northern border with Honduras have not reached an agreement to unify their struggle against the Managua Sandinist regime. Last January, however, they established a verbal agreement to "coordinate actions on the war fronts." A total of eight ships have been damaged up to now as a result of the mines placed by the anti-Sandinists in Nicaraguan ports on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Casualties in Corinto Attack

PA310400 Paris AFP in English 0343 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, March 31 (AFP) -- Nicaraguan coast guard vessels fought a naval skirmish before dawn Friday in the Port of Corinto against a swarm of "Piranha" speedboats and a gunboat manned by "counter-revolutionary" forces, an official source said. Eight of the attackers were killed and four Nicaraguan sailors were wounded during the fray, in which the opposition gunships failed to reach the quays where a number of foreign-flag freighters were moored, regional government official Luis Pichardo said. He added that the attackers, including a flotilla of six speeding "Piranhas" armed with heavy machine guns and mortars, tried to set fire to fuel storage tanks in the port area.

Corinto, on the Pacific Coast north of Managua and near the Honduran frontier, is Nicaragua's main seaport and handles 80 percent of the country's seaborne trade. It has been mined and attacked by anti-leftist rebel forces which Managua accuses of being Honduras-based and U.S.-financed.

Nicaragua says that recent attacks on its ports are part of a U.S. strategy to impose an economic and military blockade against the left-wing Sandinista government here.

Japanese Ship Hits Mine

PA311439 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1424 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A Japanese-flag ship hit a mine in the Port of Corinto last night, military authorities of this country reported today. The ship Taushiro Mahuro was entering the waters of the Bay of Corinto last night at 2204 (0404 GMT) when it was hit by an explosion between buoys No 5 and 6.

The Sandinist authorities have not given any information as yet on the extent of the damage caused by this new sabotage in the principal port of this country. The Nicaraguan Government has charged that experts of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency have placed mines of various kinds in the Atlantic and Pacific ports, using modern surface and underwater naval techniques.

Japanese Ship Loads Cargo

PA312035 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The ship Taushiro Mahuro is in the Port of Corinto as part of an effort by Japanese purchasers to ensure transportation for Nicaraguan cotton. The ship, which arrived in local waters to bring in general merchandise, yesterday had an accident when one of the mines planted by the CIA exploded. Yayita Sokiyaki, the ship's first officer, said this morning that the damage is located in hold No 3. Nevertheless, the 13,000 bales of cotton are being loaded to be taken to Japanese ports. The ship will depart this afternoon.

New Attack on 'Homin'

PA312106 Paris AFP in Spanish 2025 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 31 Mar (AFP) — The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry reported this afternoon that three helicopters and three "Piranha" boats last night attacked the Panamanian registered ship Homin with rockets and artillery fire. The ship was loading sugar at Puerto Sandino.

An official communique indicated that the antiaircraft defense of the port, which lies 10 km northwest of Managua, repelled the anti-Sandinist action that lasted 10 minutes.

The Foreign Ministry added that some 10 rockets were fired but none hit the ship. It indicated that there were no reports of casualties or damage as a result of the fighting and that it was unknown whether the attackers suffered any casualties. The Homin had already been the target of an attack from a "Piranha" boat on Wednesday.

The Nicaraguan Government has made the United States responsible for "all the damage that it is causing with its policy of state terrorism with which (...) it is trying to impose an actual blockade against Nicaragua as part of its plans to provoke the overthrow of the Sandinist people's revolution."

The Foreign Ministry confirmed in the same communique that the Japanese ship Taushiro Mahuro had to be towed to the pier at Corinto, 150 km northwest of Managua, after it was damaged by the explosion of a mine last night.

'Distortion' of Ortega Remarks

PA010331 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0244 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 31 March]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry makes known to the public the following:

For the past few days, various media have been distorting remarks by Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan defense minister, with regard to the criminal mining of Nicaraguan ports, trying to make Nicaragua responsible for nonexistent threats on our part against the security of other countries through the carrying out of similar actions in Central American ports.

For this reason it must be pointed out that these kinds of distortions and accusations could respond to new actions of provocation that would involve the mining of ports in other countries of the area for the purpose of blaming Nicaragua as part of the aggressive plans against our country and as a justification for the increase of the actions of war and terrorism that the Nicaraguan people have been suffering since 1981.

The Nicaraguan Government has made respect of international law its basic norm of conduct, and it has never promoted or encouraged -- and much less participated in -- any kind of terrorist actions, and it will never practice the state terrorism that the Nicaraguan nation is currently suffering. The Nicaraguan Government likewise reiterates its strict respect for the norms of international law and in particular those on which international peace and security are based: nonintervention, respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of states, and abstention from resort to the threat or use of force.

Managua, 31 March 1984; after 50 years, Sandino lives!

U.S. Held Responsible

PA011648 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan revolutionary government has again held the U.S. Government responsible for the new criminal actions along Nicaraguan coasts against merchant ships from several countries. A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry summary mentions the explosion that damaged the Japanese-flag merchant Taushiro Mahuro at Corinto harbor while entering Corinto Bay to load more than 13,000 bales of cotton. No victims of the explosion that occurred 30 March were reported.

At Puerto Sandino, on the same day, three helicopters and three "Piranha"-type boats attacked the Panamanian-flag vessel Homin with rockets and rifle fire. The vessel was loading sugar. A patrol boat, a coast guard vessel, and the harbor's antiaircraft defenses faced the enemy forces, which fired at least 10 rockets without hitting any targets. No reports on damage or casualties suffered by the attackers were released.

These facts have been presented to the international community, and the Reagan administration, which sponsors the attacks, has been held responsible. It has been remarked that this is more of the Reagan administration's state terrorism, which violates basic norms of international laws by trying to impose virtual isolation on Nicaragua.

Pastora: Lake Nicaragua Mined

PA011940 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander Cero (Eden Pastora), military leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), has announced via radio-telephone that a 50-km stretch of waters along the shores of the Great Lake [Lake Nicaragua] has been mined and declared a war zone. Pastora said in his brief statement that it was necessary to take that measure to prevent the deployment of military patrol boats that transport ammunition and war materiel for the Managua army.

The area where the mines were placed is between the mouth of the Sapoa River and the township of Colon, where many vessels navigate for military purposes. The commander warned the civilian inhabitants of Sapoa, Cardenas, La Palma, Sabalos, Colon, and other regions of the vicinity to refrain from transiting those waters to prevent unnecessary loss of life and property. The ARDE leader released his report from "Sarapiqui, free territory of Nicaragua."

FDN 'SERIOUSLY DAMAGES' SALTO GRANDE DAM

PA301815 Paris AFP in Spanish 1719 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Managua, 30 Mar (AFP) -- Three Nicaraguan soldiers and an unspecified number of anti-Sandinists were killed in an armed clash following sabotage of the Salto Grande Dam, in the northeastern Department of Zelaya, a Defense Ministry announcement revealed today. The anti-Sandinists seriously damaged the installation, which supplies electricity to a region mainly inhabited by Miskito Indians, the announcement added.

Early official reports did not specify whether production was suspended at this plant, which supplies electricity to the towns of Siuna and Bonanza, with over 10,000 inhabitants. The Defense Ministry noted that as the saboteurs were repelled, several members of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and three Sandinist soldiers were killed.

The Salto Grande Dam is managed by the Nicaraguan Mining Institute, which is engaged in gold exploitation projects in the region. This is the second time the dam has been attacked by anti-Sandinist guerrillas, who presumably enter from Honduras, some 80 km from Bonanza. Anti-Sandinist actions have increased this week in the northern sector and on the Pacific coast, particularly in the Ports of Sandino and Corinto, where merchant vessels and fishing boats have been damaged by mines.

CASTRO ON RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, FOREIGN POLICY

PA301325 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] In an exclusive interview granted to France's leading television channel, Cuban leader Fidel Castro has stressed that aside from those aspects over which differences do exist, relations between France and Cuba are fine. According to Fidel, Cuba and France do not agree on all aspects of their foreign relations, citing this connection France's military presence in Chad and Lebanon. We oppose this participation, he said, as do all progressive Third World and socialist countries. The Cuban chief of state explained that it must be acknowledged, however, that France's military presence in Chad and Lebanon has been accompanied by the political determination to negotiate.

In the interview, which was broadcast on the prime time newscast at 2000, Castro stressed that France maintains a positive and constructive position on Central America and that this position coincides with that of the Cuban Government.

Fidel then denounced the U.S. policy on Central America, recalling that in El Salvador Washington endorses a genocidal regime, which is responsible for the slaughter of 40,000 people. Under no circumstances can I put France and the United States on the same plane, Castro added.

Finally, he expressed the hope that French President Francois Mitterrand may have exerted some positive influence on Ronald Reagan during his recent visit to Washington.

CASTRO SAYS SALVADORAN REBELS WOULD NEGOTIATE

PA301710 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Washington -- Cuban President Fidel Castro, interviewed by U.S. reporter [name indistinct] has asserted that collapse of the increasingly demoralized Salvadoran Army could lead to direct U.S. intervention in that Central American country.

The Cuban leader added that although the Salvadoran patriots are now stronger than ever and demonstrating great fighting spirit, they are willing to negotiate not because they fear U.S. intervention, but because they feel that the cost in lives and destruction would be too great for the Salvadoran people.

CASTRO OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON SEKOU TOURE'S DEATH

FL301250 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Councils of Ministers and State, went at noon yesterday to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea's Embassy in Cuba to sign the condolence book on the death of the late President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Castro expressed his condolences on the death of President Sekou Toure to (Tajiro Diallo), Guinea's commercial attache in Cuba. Fidel Castro then respectfully stood silent before the Guinean leader's image, which was on display in one of the embassy's rooms.

SOVIET NAVAL FLOTILLA HOSTS VISITS, TOURS

Diplomats Tour Ship

FL301253 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba have visited the Soviet naval detachment that is visiting Havana. Rear Admiral Fedor Starozhilov, who is in charge of the detachment, received the visitors as they arrived at the antisubmarine cruiser Leningrad, the main vessel of the flotilla. The diplomats heard explanations of the missions that this curiser can carry out and toured the ship's installations.

Pioneers Visit 'Leningrad'

FL310207 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Our Pioneers, examples of future generations of revolutionaries, today visited the antisubmarine ship Leningrad, and toured various parts of that modern vessel. The Pioneers are primary students at Manifiesto de Montecristi and Angel Alanda Schools in the Havana Vieja Municipality.

The children were shown around the Leningrad by the ship's officers and a group of young Soviet sailors who explained to them the principal combat characteristics of the cruiser.

Meanwhile, the antisubmarine ship Udaloy was visited by numerous Soviets residing in Cuba, who are serving us through internationalist cooperation as technicians and advisers.

The flagship Leningrad can carry several helicopters and has the most modern equipment to carry out its military mission at sea.

Since their arrival in our country on 26 March, the members of the Soviet naval detachment have engaged in a large number of activities, including tours of Lenin Park, museums, historical areas, and military installations.

In addition to the two antisubmarine ships, the naval detachment includes a diesel submarine and a tanker. The detachment is completing an official and friendly visit to our country.

COOPERATION MEMORANDUM SIGNED WITH ANGOLA

FL301920 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Cuban Government Minister Levi Farah and Angola's Minister of Construction and Housing Jorge Henriques Flora yesterday signed a memorandum on cooperation between the two countries at the Cubanacan Protocol Hall in our capital.

The two leaders held working sessions to examine developments of established agreements in the construction branch. The Angolan side asked the Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises, UNECA, to begin construction of two tall buildings, and reported that negotiations for widening the paved area at the port of Luanda should be conducted directly between Angola's Ministry of Transportation and the Cuban enterprise.

The two sides also examined ongoing projects, and agreement was reached on the measures that should be adopted in each case. There are more than 1,000 builders in Angola, whose sector was the 1983 outstanding branch.

PRC TRADE DELEGATION TOURS PLANTS, DEPARTS

FL301830 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] The PRC's government-trade delegation, headed by Wang Pinqing, has signed a trade protocol for 1984 before returning to China. The delegation visited the Isle of Youth where they toured various industrial plants and other places of interest during their stay in Cuba. Manuel Torres, vice president of the State Commission for Economic Cooperation; Raul Gonzalez Tapia, vice minister of transportation; and other organization officials met with the Chinese delegation to exchange information. Jose de la Fuente, vice minister of foreign trade; Wagn Jin, the PRC's ambassador to Cuba; and other officials saw the delegation off at the airport.

UK PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

FL310138 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation of British members of Parliament has just completed a 1-week stay in Cuba at the invitation of the People's Government National Assembly. Shortly before leaving Havana, John Dormand of the Labor Party told El Rapido [the name of the news program]:

[Begin Dormand recording in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I think the most important thing that we have to do now is to convey to the British Parliament and to the British people the knowledge and experience which we have gained during this week in Cuba. We have something to learn from it in Britain. But I think perhaps above all, we've been very impressed — tremendously impressed — by the enthusiasm of everybody we've seen to implement the aims of the revolution. [end recording]

British Labor member of Parliament John Dormand.

MALMIERCA ENDS AFRICAN TOUR, VISITS FRANCE

FL301555 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca will begin an official working visit to France on Monday. According to a French Foreign Ministry note, Malmierca will meet with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson to exchange views on the international situation and aspects of their bilateral relations.

Malmierca's visit to France will be made at the end of a tour which the Cuban foreign minister has completed of several African countries including Upper Volta, Ghana, and Mali. It was noted that the African tour ended in Guinea where he attended the funeral of President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who died recently and was buried today. Malmierca represented the Cuban Government at this burial.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH DELEGATIONS TO FOOD MEETING

FL311712 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with representatives of five international organizations as well as the chiefs of delegations from 15 countries.

They are participating in the third meeting of the Commission on Codix Alimentarius for Latin America and the Caribbean [Commision del Codix Alimentarius Para America Latina y el Caribe], which began its working sessions on 27 March in Havana.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez was given a broad description of the work being conducted in the meeting. He voiced Cuba's support for that important conclave which deals with the quality of foodstuffs and its link to the people's health. Rodriguez expressed gratitude for the cooperation given to Cuba in this connection by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization.

DOMENECH URGES REPORT OF ENERGY RESEARCH

FL301345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] At a news conference held in Havana, Joel Domenech, member of the Central Committee, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the National Energy Commission, has stressed the need to report all the experience obtained in the use of new renewable resources to save petroleum and electricity. Domenech said that research done anywhere in the country must be reported in order to make it known to the people. He added that this would encourage the search for practical solutions which permit development without the limitations caused by the lack of energy resources due to their high cost.

U.S. POLICY OF CHEMICAL WARFARE SCORED

PA310053 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 84

["World Events" commentary]

[Excerpts] Theodore Gold, U.S. deputy assistant to the secretary of defense, said last week that the U.S. Government has asked Congress for $1.1 billion in fiscal year 1985 to prepare for chemical warfare. Despite reiterated pronouncements by the USSR and other socialist countries against the production of such mass extermination instruments, the Pentagon has amassed and continues to build up enormous arsenals of chemical weapons that along with their nuclear weapons, represent a terrible threat to humanity. The United States has converted Europe into an enormous arsenal of chemical weapons. Washington has stored the major part of its 150,000 tons of chemical ammunition on that continent, as well as 55,000 tons of highly toxic paralyzing gases. Experts estimate that reserves of the most poisonous substances, Sarin and Vx, total over 4,000 tons, an amount that would be sufficient to exterminate tens of millions of people.

However, U.S. strategists plan to increase the reserves by another 19,000 tons and store them in the FRG. Moreover, it is known that the cruise missiles that are being installed in that European nation will have warheads containing toxic paralyzing gases. The Pentagon has ordered production of the new chemical weapons and has stored a large quantity of this type of weapon close to the border of socialist countries, particularly the USSR. It has also obtained permission to install the deadly weapons in Great Britain, Italy, and Turkey, while chemical weapons have already been installed on aircraft carriers that are sailing the eastern part of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

U.S. experts believe that the storage of chemical weapons in such large quantities represents a great danger to the civilian population. Accidental leakage or deterioration could cause the death of every living thing over extensive areas, because it is not possible to control the movement of the mass of poisoned air which would extend for hundreds of kilometers.

The U.S. military leadership has sent tens of thousands of devices for protection from chemical weapons to Europe for U.S. Armed Forces personnel. In addition, the U.S. Air Force secretariat [as heard] plans to send over 800 specialists in antichemical defense to the U.S. Air Force bases in Western Europe. The objective of the United States is to protect its troops in the event of a chemical war, but this does not apply to the civilian population, which would be virtually exterminated.

The entire world became familiar with the use of chemical weapons during the brutal U.S. war against Vietnam. One has to imagine what its use would be today, because many more terrible types of toxic substances exist at present. For this reason, the appeals of the USSR and other countries of the socialist community to stop the production and storage of chemical weapons are very important.

ANGOLAN ARMY CLASHES WITH MERCENARY GROUPS

PA011931 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The Angolan People's Liberation Armed Forces have inflicted many casualties on the mercenary bands organized and trained by South Africa that operate in Angola. Abundant war materiel has also been seized from these bands. As officially announced in Luanda, these actions took place in the last 2 weeks, The most important of these actions was carried out on 25 March in (Sautar), in Angola Malange Province, where the Army seized rifles, mortars, rocket launchers, hand grenades, and other war materiel.

The report adds that 11 bandits were killed and 4 others were taken prisoner in different parts of southern Angola. Another group was wiped out in Cuando Cubango, and a large amount of propaganda, weapons, and ammunition was siezed.

According to the Angolan news agency, five civilians were killed in (Guacinga), in the fifth region, where the groups armed by the South African regime attacked the town, which has no military detachment. The local people, however, repelled the attackers and killed two of their men.

ECLA OFFICIAL TERMS L.A. SITUATION TRAGIC

FL301432 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] ECLA Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias has described the Latin American situation as tragic. He said that this situation has resulted in a greater awareness for the need to exchange experiences among the countries of the region. Iglesias opened in Lima, the 20th ECLA Conference at the expert level. This meeting will be continued by ministers of the 39 member countries on Wednesday. ECLA was created in 1948 and this is the second time it has held a meeting in Lima.

PENTAGON DENIES U.S. TROOPS FOUGHT IN EL SALVADOR

FL310040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] In Washington, the Pentagon this afternoon corrected an earlier statement, saying that U.S. military advisers in El Salvador have not been under enemy fire. The earlier statement from the Defense Department to the effect that U.S. advisers have engaged in combat on at least three occasions caused some congressmen to request an investigation of the legality of President Ronald Reagan's actions. During the most critical period of the Vietnam War, Congress approved a law requiring the President to have special authorization to keep U.S. troops in combat.

Nevertheless, the Pentagon's new version confirms that U.S. military advisers have been present in the barracks at San Miguel and La Union since December, where they have been attacked several times by the FMLN.

SHLAUDEMANN BEGINS C.A. TOUR IN HONDURAS

FL301655 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Harry Shlaudemann, U.S. special envoy for Central America, has started his first tour of this region in Honduras, coinciding with the arrival of the second contingent of U.S. troops to participate in new maneuvers. The diplomat, who recently replaced Richard Stone, will meet with top Honduran officians on the first leg of a trip that will include all the countries of the area and the nations that are members of the Contadora Group.

In remarks to the press in Tegucigalpa, Shlaudemann said that he disagrees with a proposal by Democratic Party Senator Edward Kennedy on the withdrawal of U.S. soldiers from Central America. In Shlaudemann's opinion, the presence of troops in the region does not contradict the peace initiatives that are being negotiated in Central America, particularly those of the Contadora Group.

HONDURAN ARMY CHIEF REMOVED, ORDERED TO DEPART

PA010501 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] A Honduran national radio and television network has announced that Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova has become commanding general of the Armed Forces after General Gustavo Alvarez was dismissed from that post and after General Jose Abdenego Bueso, joint chief of staff, resigned. The dismissal of Gustavo Alvarez, who was considered to hold real power in Honduras and to be an unconditional servant of the United States, was decided by the high command, which also ordered his immediate departure from the national territory.

Shortly afterwards, the network reported the resignations of General Ruben Humberto Montoya, commander of the Naval Force, and General Daniel Bali Castillo, commander of Public Security Force. Meanwhile, Suazo Cordova's regime asked the people to remain calm and several airplanes flew over Tegucigalpa, the capital. The national radio and television network added that the high military command is meeting right now.

The resignation of Gen Gustavo Alvarez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, comes shortly after the visit to Tegucigalpa by Harry Shlaudemann, the new U.S. special ambassador for Central America, who began a tour of the region. It also comes shortly before the beginning of the Grenadier I joint military maneuvers that will be held with U.S., Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran troops.

In regard to the military exercises, it has been learned that about 1,000 U.S. soldiers arrived in Honduran territory today to participate in the construction of military airports. The Grenadier I maneuvers, to be held from 1 April-30 June, are considered to be the most important ever held in Central America.

3-DAY MARITIME TRANSPORTATION MEETING BEGINS

FL311601 Bridgetown CANA in English 1457 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 31 (CANA) -- Port development and maritime transportation in the Caribbean will be discussed by private and public sector shipping officials in a three-day conference starting here tomorrow. Sponsored by the Caribbean Centre and the Caribbean Shipping Association (CSA), the conference will provide a forum for dialogue among representatives of shipping lines, ports, manufacturers-exporters associations, government agencies, and transportation organisations on possible solutions to transportation problems existing in the region, the organisers said.

The Caribbean Centre is the communications arm of the Washington-based Caribbean Council, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting U.S.-Caribbean relations and commerce. The CSA is a regional grouping comprising the major shipping interests in the English, Spanish, French, and Dutch Caribbean.

Other institutions co-operating in the upcoming conference are the Caricom Secretariat, the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce, and the West Indies Shipping Corporation (WISCO).

Topics for discussion will include port development, small vessel operations, documentation, and data bases.

The conference is a follow up to one held last November in Puerto Rico at which recommendations were made regarding possible solutions to the region's maritime transportation problems. Among the recommendations was a suggestion that ports streamline the physical plants and speed up documentation procedures to ensure the necessary rapid delivery of goods. Ports, it was recommended, should also acquire handling equipment and establish better management-labour relations.

As regards the Caribbean's small vessel fleet, it was recommended that encouragement be given to investors to go into this area of development.

The San Juan conference felt, too, that there was a great need for continuing dialogue in order to streamline Caribbean maritime transportation. The Kingston meeting is another step in this direction, the organisers said.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ELECTIONS TO BE 17 APRIL; CAMPAIGNING BEGINS

FL301820 Bridgetown CANA in English 1656 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, March 30 (CANA) -- Vere Bird's Antigua Labour Party (ALP) government today called a snap election for April 17, a full year earlier than it was constitutionally due. Nomination day will be April 5, the electoral office said.

The announcement was no surprise, coming as it did amid an already intense political campaign and after persistent press reports here that Prime Minister Bird was planning the mid-April poll.

Parliament was dissolved Wednesday.

The election will be a four-corner fight with the ALP being challenged by the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) of opposition leader Robert Hall, the new United People's Movement (UPM) led by ex-Premier George Walter, and the leftist Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) of former school teacher Tim Hector.

Bird's ALP won a landslide in the 1980 poll, capturing 13 of the 17 parliamentary seats. Three went to the PLM and the other one to an independent.

At a special party convention on Sunday the ALP is to decide on its final campaign strategy, approve a manifesto, and name candidates for all constituencies.

Two of the opposition parties, the PLM and the UPM, have agreed on an accomodation to contest the general election, Hall announced. The UPM and the PLM have formed a United Front and we hope to upset the (ruling) Antigua Labour Party (ALP) at the elections," Hall said on radio. He gave no details of the electoral arrangement.

He said the PLM's Executive Council voted by a majority to accept the proposals forwarded by the UPM outlining the conditions of the accomodation. The PLM leader said the smaller Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement, which was involved in the accomodation talks, had been omitted from the "United Front." No reasons were given, but Hall has always opposed the idea of joining forces with the ACLM because of its left-leaning stance.

Hall did not say just how the United Front hopes to contest the elections and was equally tight-lipped on the question of leadership.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT STANDS FIRM ON CURRENCY REPATRIATION

FL301235 Bridgetown CANA in English 0925 GMT 29 Mar 84

[By Paget Defreitas]

[Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica, March 29 (CANA) -- The Jamaica Government, still grappling with an acute shortage of foreign exchange, is standing firm against critics of tough new legislation to force the repatriation of overseas lodged hard currency earned from local goods and services. "There is good reason for everyone to understand that this government is not joking with this matter (of repatriating foreign exchange) and we will stand by the full intention of our legislation," a combative Prime Minister Edward Seaga told Parliament here Tuesday. "So we urge everyone to do what is right and what is expected," he added.

The contentious amendment to the Exchange Control Act gives the minister of finance -- a portfolio Seaga himself holds -- power to issue directions to ensure that exporters repatriate foreign currency earned according to the regulations laid down by government. The legislation prescribes fines of up to 100,000 dollars (one JCA dollar; 30 cents U.S.) and possible jail sentences for breaches of the regulations and places the onus on the top executives of companies to prevent breaches.

MANUFACTURERS URGED TO CAPITALIZE ON PRICE EDGE

FL302126 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30 (CANA) -- The Jamaica Government has called on the manufacturing sector here to capitalise on the pricing edge afforded by the sharp devaluation of the local currency since last November. Prime Minister Seaga, speaking last night at the formal opening of Expo-84, a big trade fair organized by the manufacturers' and exporters' associations, acknowledged that the initial 43.4 per cent devaluation and the further crawling declines since then had brought economic and social problems. But he declared: "The present exchange rate has at last opened the door to the export market outside Caricom on a scale not before possible."

The theme of the 10-day exhibiton "Export or Die." More than 200 buyers from the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Europe are expected to be here looking at the 120 products from 138 companies, displayed in 230 booths erected inside Kingston's National Arena.

Seaga stressed that Jamaica exporters would have to look outside of Caricom to fulfill the role the government had set for the manufacturing sector of becoming a net earner of foreign exchange. With Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the other inputs the stage was now set for a take-off.

Apart from a competitive exchange rate, he said, manufacturers could not bring in their raw materials and capital goods without import licences, and they will be allowed to by-pass the auction system for foreign exchange when the Export Development Fund (EDF), dry for several months, is replenished shortly. This will happen after the formalising of a 180 million U.S. dollar balance of payments support programmes with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Failure to reach an agreement with the IMF had held up loans from Western banks and multilateral institutions.

Seaga was aware that manufacturers still had problems, with many factories in need of capital, equipment and other imputs. But he said that there was still the prospect of immediate expansion of exports to hard currency markets in the USA. He said a recent government survey had shown that Jamaica was currently exporting 177 products to the United States, excluding bauxite and fresh produce. But the value of the exports was only 31.5 million U.S. dollars.

The study had also showed that a further 54 products could be added to the list and that the potential for growth was not vastly increased with the devaluation of the local dollar.

Seaga stressed that at present both volumes and quantity of exports were small, and urged the exporters to take advantage of the increased opportunities. He said that they did not have to immediately seek their markets in major metropolitan areas. There were thousands of towns and small cities across the United States which the manufacturing sector here would be better able to service, he said. With the support system behind it, Seaga said, "Export manufacturing can make this the major year to open new markets."

BOUTERSE NOTES NETHERLANDS TIES WITH OPPOSITION

FL311648 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The Surinamese leader, Desi Bouterse, (?won't prepare) to repair relations with the Netherlands unless it breaks its ties with the Council for the Liberation of Suriname. Bouterse said there was cooperation between this council and the Dutch intelligence service. Bouterse was speaking after (?this week's) expulsion from French Guiana of 16 men of Suriname origin. The 16 were sent back to the Netherlands on suspicion of planning a coup in Suriname. Bouterse said he was well informed about the conspiracies of the Council for the Liberation, and called on the Suriname people to be vigilant.

Envoy to The Hague Returns

PA011235 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0347 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Hague, 31 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Diplomatic sources reported today that the Surinamese ambassador to the Hague returned to his country today for urgent consultations in the wake of the arrival in the Netherlands of 16 alleged conspirators who sought to overthrow the Surinamese Government.

Ambassador Hendrik Herrenberg's trip occurred in the wake of a statement by Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers claiming that his government does not have sufficient grounds to take action against the so-called Council for the Liberation of Suriname, which is operating in Netherlands territory. Glenn Tjon Akidt, member of the group of alleged conspirators, belongs to the council.

LABOR UNIONS WANT MEETING ON IMPORT CREDIT HALT

FL310520 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Commercial banks in Suriname are under government orders to stop granting letters of credit to pay for imports, according to a government source. Officials refuse to confirm the report, which also said about 1,000 applications for import licenses had been returned to local merchants. The move means that practically no goods will be imported from countries like Japan, and reflects the seriousness of the economic situation in Suriname where about 70 percent of consumer goods are imported. Alarmed at the situation and the possibility of lay-offs, Suriname's four labor federations have asked for a meeting with cabinet ministers. The meeting could take place today.

The government of the former Dutch colony, headed by Army Lieutenant Desi Bouterse, has tried unsuccessfully to get help from the IMF.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS TORTURING

FL311658 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The human rights organization Amnesty International says in a report that prisoners in Fort (Zaender) in Paramaribo, Suriname, are being tortured. Amnesty says that soldiers in Suriname have subjected people ill-disposed to the military regime to rationing of food, water, and [word indistinct], and in some cases mutilation. The report will be officially published on Wednesday and will mark the beginning of a new Amnesty campaign against the systematic use of torture by government.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FORMER PRESIDENTS CRITICIZE LETTER TO REAGAN

FL301523 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] In the Dominican Republic two former presidents, Juan Bosch and Joaquin Balaguer, strongly criticized President Salvador Jorge Blanco Thursday for sending a letter to President Reagan asking him to intercede with IMF on behalf of the Dominican Republic. Mr Jorge Blanco had written to Mr Reagan asking him to influence the IMF toward revising and loosening its objectives in relation to the second year of its credit program with the Dominican Republic. President Reagan declined to intercede with the IMF on the Dominican Republic's behalf.

VENEZUELA

GOVERNMENT READY TO REOPEN TALKS WITH GUYANA

FL291820 Bridgetown CANA in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] Caracas, March 29 (CANA-REUTER) -- Venezuela is prepared in principle to reopen direct talks with the Guyanese Government on the disputed Essequibo region, Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul said today. "I don't see any obstacle to sitting down at the negotiating table for direct negotiations," he told members of the foreign press.

Venezuela's territorial claim over the Essequibo is presently in the hands of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who according to the 1966 Geneva agreement is charged with choosing a mutually acceptable procedure for settling the 84-year old dispute.

The two sides have so far been unable to agree and relations have remained cool for the past five years, but with the advent of Venezuela's new Social Democrat government in February Guyana has expressed optimism that progress can be made.

During the last Accion Democratica (Social Democrat) government of Carlos Andres Perez, the two countries discussed joint economic development of the Essequibo region as part of a settlement.

Morales Paul said Venezuela remains committed to direct negotiation of its border disputes -- which also include one with Colombia -- as a means of best accommodating the interests of both parties.

BRIEFS

MARAVEN OIL RESERVES -- At the conclusion of its 1983 oil exploration program, Maraven, a subsidiary of Petroven, had increased its confirmed oil reserves by 155 million barrels. Total confirmed reserves amounted to 5.15 billion barrels, compared to 4.995 billion in 1982. The reserves include 3.176 billion barrels of heavy crude and 1.974 billion barrels of light and medium crude. Gas reserves total 6.34 billion cubic feet. [Summary] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Mar 84 p 5-D PA]